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FORCE'S TASER CASH STUNNER

Police bid for share of Home Office millions to buy stun guns

By JENNA PUDELEK
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TASER stun guns could become a common sight on the county's streets if a Kent Police bid for Government funding is successful.

Chief Constable Michael Fuller said the force will be making a case to the Home Office for a share of the £8 million that has been made available to increase the use of the non-lethal weapons across the country.

Tasers are already in use on the streets of Kent, but only by 80 specially trained firearms officers since they were introduced in October, 2007.

"In the vast majority of cases it has not been fired, because pointing the red dart at someone's chest with the threat of 10,000 volts has been enough to deter them from carrying out a violent attack on officers or members of the public," Mr Fuller told a meeting of the Kent Police Authority (KPA) this week.

"Their use has been very successful. They are an important tool for officers and prevent greater injuries that could occur if officers used other weapons available to them, such as metal asps, which cause more damage."

The force will apply for the funding before the end of the month, despite calls from the KPA for a debate about the wider use of Tasers and firearms, which will not take place until February next year.

Mr Fuller was keen to increase the number of Tasers available in Kent after Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced last month that 10,000 of the weapons would be made available for officers after a successful pilot programme.

Statistics from the national trial showed that in 75 per cent of cases the weapon was drawn but not fired. In Kent, police have never stunned anyone with the weapon. And between January 1 and August 31, this year, Tasers have been drawn but not fired 13 times, the county force's statistics show.



SHOCK TACTICS: Chief Constable Michael Fuller will bid for a share of £8 million of Home Office funds being made available for police forces to buy Taser stun guns

However, in response to Ms Smith's announcement, the Metropolitan Police Authority said it would not immediately take up the offer because it has the "potential to cause fear and damage public confidence".

Mark Gilmartin, chief executive of the KPA, told Kent on Sunday after the meeting: "If there is a chance of extra Home Office funding, I understand why the Chief Constable would not want to miss the deadline for bidding, because if we do miss it we will have to fund this ourselves. Unfortunately, the authority will not meet again until February for a proper debate to take place on the wider use of Tasers. But Mr Fuller will consult and take on board the lead members' opinions prior to submitting that bid.

"We obviously have a lot to discuss at far more length on the use of firearms and Tasers with all authority members present."

Tasers, which are shaped like handguns and cost about £750, fire barbed darts charged with 50,000 volts to stun and immobilise an attacker. The weapons are already widely used by police forces in North America.

Amnesty International submitted a report to the US Justice Department last year raising concerns about the safety of using of electro-shock weapons in law enforcement and the potential for abuse. The human rights organisation investigated more than 290 deaths, 15 of which were in Canada, following jolts from police Tasers since 2001.

The death of a Polish immigrant at Vancouver airport in October after Mounties stunned him with Taser guns has prompted widespread debate about use of the weapons in Canada and the United States.

A Kent Police spokeswoman said the weapons could be used in situations where an individual's behavior was threatening towards another person or an officer.

"That would be if a person was armed with a threatening weapon, but not a gun, or if they were threatening people. For instance, if they had a hold of someone around the neck. It would depend on the situation," she said.

At the moment, in Kent officers armed with Taser guns can only be deployed with the approval of an Assistant Chief Constable or the Chief Constable.

Wednesday's meeting also saw members of the KPA vote in favour of a pay increase of up to 45 per cent. Under the new scheme Anne Barnes, chairwoman of the authority, will see her allowance rise from £20,000 to £29,000.

Mark Reckless, a Conservative on Medway Council, was one of four members to vote against the decision and has written to Mr Gilmartin insisting he should be paid at the old, lower rate.

Cllr Reckless said: "This should be about public service and getting the police to do what the public want, so I won't be taking the pay rise."



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Exchange rate making Garden of England ripe for foreign investment

THE pound may have sunk to a record low against the euro, but as sterling moves towards parity with the single currency the county could be set to benefit.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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Locate in Kent, the organisation that markets the county to investors, has seen a recent increase in the number of French companies it has been dealing with.

Mandy Bearne, director of marketing and research, said it was too early to say whether the agency was dealing with more French companies because of the exchange rate swinging in their favour.

But the euro trading at 89p by the end of this week, the falling pound, and Europeans getting more for their money, could all add to the list of reasons that Kent is attractive to foreign investment.

"I can see Kent benefiting from it," Ms Bearne said. "We have to, as an agency, go out and promote all the advantages that Kent might have, whatever it might be.

"If we can see positive things to offer, we do.

"One of them is the onset of the new domestic rail services which makes us closer to London and is compelling to UK companies as well as those from French and Belgium."

French companies make up 15 per cent of investment in Kent and are second only to the US at 34 per cent, according to Locate in Kent figures.

During the financial year 2007-08 there were four French companies that successfully opened up shop in Kent, which was the highest amount since 2000-01 when five businesses chose to invest in the county.

"It is getting higher and we certainly have been dealing with more of them [French companies]," Ms Bearne said.

Exchange

"We are particularly courting those sorts of companies, from France and Belgium, because we think Kent deserves to have more foreign direct investment. This is because it tends to be bigger in terms of jobs and actual investment itself than that from local companies or those from around the UK."

She said when the High Speed 1 domestic rail service becomes available in late 2009, companies would be able to take advantage of cheaper commercial property prices and employment costs in north Kent – and be 17 minutes from central London.

"We are trying to attract more companies because of our position in relation to London and the Continent and we believe we have a lot to offer French companies," she said.

Locate in Kent is directly going after the French and Belgium markets and has employed a company to work on its behalf to find leads.

She said in the past most companies from France have moved to Kent to expand into new markets.

"It can be down to economics which are not around exchange rates – such as the cost of employing staff not just pay, but social taxes," Ms Bearne added: "It is relatively easy doing business here than in France because employment laws make it harder. There is more overall flexibility here."

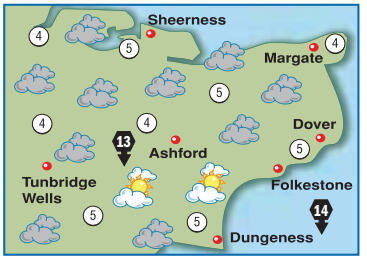
While French businesses appear keen to invest in Kent, an estate agent in the county was unsure whether the same would be true for the residential property market.

A spokeswoman for Hobbs Parker Estate Agents in Ashford said: "It makes sound financial sense for them, but the French are not great buyers of property, they tend to rent.

"However, we are poised and waiting because there a some very good deals to be had and not just because of the change in exchange rate, but because of what is happening to the property market here."

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Kent today



TODAY: Dry but cloudy and overcast with little, if any, brightness expected. A generally cloudy end to the day. A moderate northerly breeze. Max temp 2-5C (36-41F).
TONIGHT: Mainly cloudy with the chance of the odd spot of drizzle. There will be strong north-easterly winds. Min temp 1-4C (34-39F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	rain	4	39	London	fair	5	41
Belfast	cloudy	4	39	Liverpool	cloudy	5	41
Birmingham	showers	4	39	Manchester	cloudy	3	37
B'mouth	fair	3	37	Newcastle	snow	3	37
Bristol	cloudy	4	39	Norwich	cloudy	5	41
Cardiff	fair	3	37	Oxford	cloudy	2	36
Cork	sun	3	37	Southsea	cloudy	4	39
Edinburgh	showers	3	37	S'hampton	fair	5	41
Glasgow	cloudy	5	41	Southport	sun	4	39
Isle of Man	fair	6	43	Swansea	cloudy	5	41
Leeds	mist	1	34	Torquay	fair	6	43

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.55am	Sunset	3.45pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	5.46pm	Moonset	9.55am	3.45pm to 7.56am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	11.45	6.8	–	–	00.19	6.8	12.39	6.7
Margate	00.24	4.6	12.55	4.8	01.12	4.7	13.49	4.8
St Mary's	05.23	5.9	17.51	5.7	06.13	5.9	18.41	5.6

Week ahead

monday Cloudy. Dry. max 7C min 3C
tuesday Cloudy. Dry. max 8C min 3C
wednesday Cloudy. Dry. max 7C min 4C
thursday Cloudy. Dry. max 9C min 5C
friday Cloudy. Rain. max 9C min 4C
saturday Mainly dry. max 8C min 4C

Where the streets have their names

THE Rolling Stones' biggest hits will be forever remembered in the Kent town where its two lead members grew up.

Singer Mick Jagger and guitarist Keith Richards attended the same primary school in Dartford, where the new Bridge Estate will have roads named after some of the legendary rock band's best-known songs.

Examples include Lady Jane Walk, Ruby Tuesday Drive and Satisfaction Street.

The theme for the third phase of the £400 million Bridge scheme was suggested by developer ProLogis, while council leader Jeremy Kite came up with the majority of the names.

He said: "I came up with the idea because it's great to give new housing areas a sense of history and residents are telling us they love the idea.

"The Rolling Stones have made a big mark on the world and it's great for us to recognise their roots."

A similar scheme in Liverpool saw street signs named after Beatles songs stolen, but Cllr Kite said he did not think the same thing would happen in Dartford.

He said: "I think there is more chance of people coming to have their photographs taken there.

"It's not just about fun. It puts the place on the map and links to our heritage."

After leaving Wentworth Primary School, the paths of Jagger and Richards did not cross again until the two bumped into each other at a train station in 1960.

Richards was attending Sidcup Art College in Bexley at the time, which also lists former Stones bassist and The Pretty Things member Dick Taylor among its former students. Taylor also grew up in Dartford.


EARLY DAYS: Rockers the Rolling Stones

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SMALL WONDER: A scene from The Tale of Despereaux

Animators draw on experience for uni

ANIMATORS who helped piece together new blockbuster movie The Tale of Despereaux returned to Kent to teach university students tricks of the trade, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Harry Potter stars Emma Watson and Robbie Coltrane were among those who lent their voices to the upcoming Universal Studios Christmas hit, alongside Matthew Broderick, Christopher Lloyd, Dustin Hoffman and Sigourney Weaver.

But while the Hollywood actors were busy learning their lines for the mouse-based movie, the real hard work was being carried out at Framestore's animation and post-production base in Soho, London.

Two of the firm's animators, Liam Russell and Elwaleed Sulimann, studied at the University of Kent at Canterbury, and returned to work with masters students tackling degrees in computer animation and digital visual effects.

Mr Russell, 24, said: "I owe quite a bit to the university because animation is a very difficult industry to break into.

"With the internship that was offered to Elwaleed and I, we were able to get jobs with Framestore and without that I think we would have found things a lot tougher.

"It's nice for us to be able to give something back now, but it's also important for us to let students know how much hard work they are in for and what the industry is like at the moment."

Both animators graduated last year and have since worked on video games as well as on the ITV1 science fiction hit Primeval.


WE'RE BACK: Animators Liam Russell and Elwaleed Sulimann with UKC students

The Tale of Despereaux, which cost $100 million to create and is due to be released in the UK on Friday, is the first feature film the duo have worked on.

Mr Russell said: "I haven't actually seen the finished product yet, but we're going to have our own private screening in a few days. To be involved in such a big film is huge for us, especially as we came straight from university."

During their return to Kent, the animators held an eight-hour workshop teaching students how to use professional techniques to produce a 3D storyboard.

Course leader David Byers-Brown said: "This is what our masters courses are all about – bringing current feature production skills from the industry to our students in vivid and practical ways that will enable them to fit directly into the exciting professional arena that 3D graphics for film, TV and games constitutes today."


VOICES: Hoffman, Watson and Coltrane

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TA base bomb alert

HOMES in Dover were evacuated as the Army carried out a controlled explosion on a car.

Police cordoned off the area outside the Territorial Army base in London Road at 6.30pm on Thursday after reports of a suspicious vehicle. Neighbours were evacuated as the Army prepared to carry out two controlled explosions, just before 9pm. Kent Police said no devices had been found in the car but that explosions were carried out as a precaution.

Loo of the Year pride

THE cleanliness of public toilets in Swale has been officially recognised in the Loo of the Year Awards 2008. Four lavatory blocks across the borough were awarded four-star certificates.

The toilets are in Grove Avenue, Leysdown; Rose Street, Sheerness; and the central car parks in Faversham and Sittingbourne.

A spokeswoman said: "For our clean public loos to be recognised is extremely pleasing."

Ram-raiders hunted

POLICE are hunting a gang thought to have carried out three failed ram-raids on Thursday and Friday.

Cash machines at village stores in Lyminge, Wye and Lenham were all targeted between 10pm and 3am, although the thieves were unable to remove them. Two 4x4 vehicles were used in all three raids, one of which has since been recovered by the police.

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Julie Maddocks meets someone who could save you fuel

Fremlin Walk mall is up for sale at £94m

FREMLIN Walk shopping mall in Maidstone is up for sale at £94 million as the high street feels the impact of the credit crunch.

Owner Land Securities has put one of the county's top shopping destinations on the market to raise cash to finance projects elsewhere.

It says a number of interested parties have inquired about buying the mall, which attracts up to 150,000 customers a week.

The 350,000 sq ft Fremlin Walk opened in March, 2005, and its flagship store is House of Fraser. It also has HMV, Boots, H&M, and La Senza, as well as coffee shops and a large car park.

A Land Securities official said: "We own the site and have been involved with it even prior to its opening more than three years ago. But we have decided it is the right time to put it on the market.

"We feel the money raised by this sale could be spent more effectively elsewhere."

The mall, along with the rest of Maidstone, has recorded an increased number of visitors in recent months, compared with last year.

However, that has not been reflected in increased sales, according to the business community.

Town centre manager Bill Moss said: "This really is a sign of the times. But Fremlin Walk should fetch a high price and be a valuable asset to whoever decides to buy it.

"It is a prime attraction in the biggest retail town in the county."

Land Securities also owns Westwood Cross in Thanet and Whitefriars at Canterbury.

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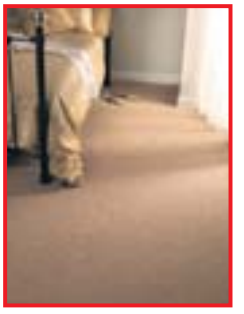
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Rail operator dismisses media speculation about sell-off

Eurostar sale report 'without foundation'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
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THE UK division of Eurostar has dismissed media reports it could be sold to German firm Deutsche Bahn (DB) as "complete speculation".

The British government owns 33 per cent of the cross-Channel rail operator, with the remaining shares split between the state railways of France (62 per cent) and Belgium (five per cent).

Reports that DB is interested in buying the UK's stock first appeared on Friday, but Eurostar says the story is likely to be the first of many over the coming months.

Spokeswoman Lesley Retallack said: "It is common knowledge the Government wants to restructure [Eurostar UK's parent company] London and Continental Railways, which will involve splitting down its components and going through the process of finding new owners. The Government has confirmed this is going to happen, but there is no timeframe and no discussions about ownership.

"The story in The Times [which raised a potential sale to DB] is without any foundation whatsoever."

From 2010, train companies will have the right to run services across the European Union without needing special agreements with member states.

Mrs Retallack said: "These types of stories are going to keep emerging over the coming months. As far as Eurostar is concerned, we know we are a very attractive business and there will be a lot of third-party interest in us."

Mrs Retallack declined to comment on claims in The Times that DB feels Eurostar is being run "very inefficiently" due to its mixed ownership structure.



THE WRONG TRACK: Eurostar's UK division has dismissed speculation it could be sold

The German firm's objective is to "become the world's leading passenger and logistics company", and already operates high-speed services to 80 foreign cities in co-operation with state-owned railways in France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria.

Eurostar's services have been hit by the Channel Tunnel fire in September, with repairs not due to be completed until mid-February at the earliest.

However, the firm said about 90 per cent of its trains were still arriving on time.

A DB spokesman admitted the company was monitoring opportunities for growth in foreign markets.

He added: "Eurostar, like many others, is an attractive company in a very interesting market. Yet at this stage it is too early to speak about concrete plans."

Meanwhile, a new high-speed train that will be used to transport spectators to the 2012 Olympic Games made its first journey into London on Friday.

The Japanese-built 'javelin' travelled from Ashford to St Pancras in just 37 minutes – shaving 46 minutes off the usual journey time.

Among those on board were transport minister Lord Adonis and representatives from the Ashford's Future group.

Twenty-nine of the trains will come into service on domestic routes in December next year.

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Invicta's star auction

FLIGHTS to Le Touquet, a guitar signed by James Blunt and drinks with Chris Tarrant are among the lots at a Kent charity auction.

Whitstable-based radio station Invicta FM has organised the sale and hopes to raise thousands for its Help a Kent Child charity.

Normal programming will be suspended on Friday, December 19, and the breakfast show's James Heming will host the auction, which opens at 6am and closes at 6pm.

He said: "We hope to make it a happy new year for charities that support Kent children."

Listeners will be able to start bidding online at www.invictafm.com/charity from Monday.

Ancient isle settlement

EVIDENCE of a Germanic settlement from the fifth century has been unearthed in Rushenden, on the Isle of Sheppey.

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey experts are examining the site to discover more about how the settlers lived. So far they have found the remains of a boat-shaped hall and evidence of boat-building.

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Casting an experienced eye over this year's must-have toys

Win or lose, Villa FA Cup tie a real result for Gills

GILLINGHAM FC stand to gain at least £300,000 from their FA Cup clash with Aston Villa next month, according to the club's chief executive Mark Jones, ***writes David Pritchard***.

Mark Stimson's side upset the odds with a 2-1 victory at Stockport County on Tuesday night to set up an eagerly anticipated game against the high-flying Premiership side next month.

The win netted the League Two club £30,000 in prize money, but the real boost is the £160,000 the Gills will receive for the game to be shown live on television.

With advertising hoardings plus a bumper crowd at Priestfield, the cash boost is welcome for a club which announced losses of £1.6 million last week.

Jones said: "The tie is probably worth about £300,000. It's big money and, more importantly, it's unbudgeted. We weren't expecting to get to the third round."

The tie will be the first visit by a top-flight side to Priestfield for three seasons. The club have been inundated with enquiries and have postponed their Christmas party until January to cope with demand.

Gills announced ticket prices for the game this week, with most fans facing a 15 per cent rise in costs compared with normal league games. Adults will be charged £22, but Jones defended the decision.





HERO AND VILLAN: Gills skipper Barry Fuller will take on Gareth Barry's men

He said: "We had to price the tickets at a range we thought was appropriate and the game gives us an opportunity to generate more funds. I think the fans understand why we've done it. More money gives us a better chance to get out of the division, which is a realistic goal."

Tickets went on sale on Friday to season ticket holders and supporters with stubs from the last two home games. They have until next Saturday to buy, before the remainder go on general sale a day later.



Festive spirit in full flow at Lapland UK

Happy Kent crowds despite New Forest fiasco

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

WITH SANTA being punched in face and children left in tears at a muddy 'Lapland' it appeared that the Grinch had managed to steal the country's Christmas spirit.

But the magic of the festive period, smiling young faces, a jolly Father Christmas and an enchanting winter wonderland can still be found at Lapland UK in Kent, according to its owner and creator Mike Battle.

After more than 2,000 complaints to Trading Standards and thousands of disappointed and angry parents, Lapland New Forest closed down last week.

Lapland West Midlands failed to open on Saturday and families expecting huskies, snow and an ice rink found only empty marquees and a muddy field.

Despite the two ventures dragging the Lapland brand through the slush, Mr Battle said it had not deterred visitors from his attraction near Bewl Water.

"Remarkably, we have just sold more tickets and also we had the public say they were very pleased that they had picked the right Lapland UK," he said.

Mr Battle set-up the "theatrical experience" last year as a greener and cheaper alternative to flying to Lapland enabling families to enjoy a festive day out and lock in the carbon from the flight.



POPULAR: Lapland UK says tickets for the Kent attraction are are selling well despite the controversy elsewhere

"These guys have cynically tried to take the idea and it appears they have been misleading the public and have been found out," he said.

"But the concept of a theatrical Lapland experience in the UK is alive and well in Kent.

"The subject matter is very important to people. Parents hand over their children's belief in Father Christmas to us and that is a very precious thing."

A day out at Lapland UK includes a personalised invitation from Father Christmas for each child, ice skating and the chance to eat like superstar rapper Jay-Z as the meals are cooked by the chefs who prepared the VIP food at this year's Glastonbury.

Children also get the chance to help the elves in the toy factory who are working on Stevenson Brothers Rocking Horses – the same makers that supply the Queen and the Sultan of Brunei, Mr Battle said.

"We travelled extensively to do research about the culture of the indigenous people of Lapland, the Samis, so that we represent them as authentically as possible.

"I feel we have a responsibility to do it very well," Mr Battle said.

"It is very much a theatrical experience with the toy factory and gingerbread house and it is educational with the culture aspect.

"It is magical travelling from one world to another – it is all about attention to detail."

The father-of-four and his wife, who is a primary school teacher, together created the experience they would want to give their own children.

Asked if he was angry about last week's Lapland fiasco, he added: "I don't think they have ruined it and we have got a strong enough company to come through this.



LET IT SNOW: Youngsters can immerse themselves in a winter wonderland

"But it is disappointing in society when someone has a nice idea and someone misrepresents it.

"I have not been but I saw the photographs and the idea of Father Christmas' home being in a marquee – it's very disappointing.

"It would be laughable but the sad thing is there are all these children caught in the middle of it."

• ***Tickets for the experience, which lasts around four hours, cost £85, for more information go to www.laplanduk.co.uk.***



I WOULD LIKE... Santa asks an excited youngster what she wants for Christmas



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The gingerbread house



WHERE'S RUDOLPH? Reindeer at Lapland UK

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EXCLUSIVE

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

and **JAMES ALEXANDRE**

Lumley fury at threat to hero's family

JOANNA Lumley has condemned threats to deport the family of a Kent-based Gurkha soldier killed in Afghanistan last month.

The Absolutely Fabulous actress is backing a national campaign to secure equal rights for the Nepalese warriors and said it was "unthinkable" that the wife and children of a war hero should have to worry about being asked to leave their home.

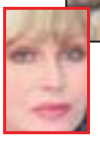
Colour Sergeant Krishnabahadur Dura, of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles, based at Shorncliffe Barracks, Folkestone, died last month in the Musa Qala district of Helmand Province when the vehicle he was in struck a roadside bomb.

Now his widow, Uma, and the couple's two young daughters face deportation.

Speaking exclusively to KOS Media, Ms Lumley said: "This man lost his life fighting in the British Army. He is yet another example of the magnificent service the Gurkhas have given to us over generations. It is unthinkable that his family should have to worry about whether they will be allowed to stay in Britain. I am calling on the Government to end the uncertainty and announce their right to live with us immediately. Our country owes this brave soldier and his family a debt of honour."

C/Sgt Dura, 36, came from the Lamjung district of Nepal and enlisted in 1992. He was quickly promoted through the ranks and then selected for the Gurkha Reinforcement Company with the 2nd Battalion, the Parachute Regiment. He served with distinction before joining the Royal Gurkha Rifles in 1997.





FALLEN WARRIOR: Joanna Lumley, inset, is backing the family of Gurkha soldier Krishnabahadur Dura, above

An experienced senior non-commissioned officer, C/Sgt Dura had tours in Bosnia, East Timor, Sierra Leone and was on his third tour to Afghanistan. He was promoted to colour sergeant last year and singled out for selection to form the battalion's sniper platoon.

C/Sgt Dura's wife and children live in Canterbury MP Julian Brazier's constituency and the Tory politician has also given his backing for them to be allowed to stay in the UK.

He said: "I am appalled and outraged that anyone could think it fair or humane even to think of treating the family of a fallen hero this way.

"Krishna Dura made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of this country and his dependants should be treated in a fair and honourable manner.

"His wife has long been settled here and both his children were born here.

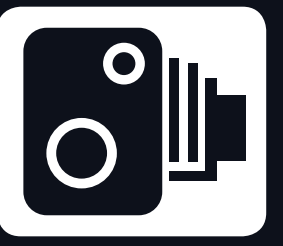
"This is their home and I urge the Government to treat their case with compassion and humanity. I have written to the Home Office, urging that they should be allowed to stay."

News and sport updated daily online www.kentnews.co.uk

Search 'Gurkha parade' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Shorncliffe Barracks-based Gurkhas on the march to receive the freedom of Sandgate



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Postgate's legacy will 'never be far away'



Picture: REX FEATURES

MEMORIES: Emily was little girl in Bagpuss

By **JAMIE McGINNES**

BAGPUSS creator Oliver Postgate's legacy will continue "forever", according to the woman who appeared as the little girl at the start of each episode of the classic children's programme.

Mock Victorian images of Emily Firmin when she was six-years-old provided the memorable opening credits to Bagpuss.

She was made famous in the introduction voiced by Postgate, who, it was confirmed this week, has died at a nursing home near his house in Broadstairs, aged 83.

In the voiceover, Postgate said: "Once upon a time, not so long ago, there was a little girl and her name was Emily, and she had a shop."

At the start of each episode, Emily brought her "saggy old cloth cat" to life by placing a mysterious object before him.

She was given the role by Postgate and her artist and puppeteer father, Peter Firmin, when they made the children's series in an old cow shed at the Firmin family home in Blean, near Canterbury.

Speaking to KOS Media this week, Emily, now 43, said Postgate had been a "lovely, lovely person" who had helped her embark on her own artistic career.

She said the common sight of Bagpuss soft toys – some of which even feature the recorded sound of Postgate's voice – meant his memory would never be far away.

"He's everywhere," she said. "I think he will go on forever."

Invented in 1974, Bagpuss topped a BBC poll of the nation's favourite children's TV series in 1999. Postgate and Peter Firmin also made the Clangers (1969 and 1971), Ivor the Engine (1959 and 1975) and Noggin the Nog (1959-65).

"Personally I'm grateful for my dad meeting Oliver because together they created some of the best children's programmes ever," said Emily.

"People were hugely influenced by Oliver and my father. If it wasn't for them we wouldn't have some of the great animations we have now."

The frilly Victorian dress worn by Emily in the sepia photo sequence was made by her mother, Joan, and the window of the 'shop' that was the home of Bagpuss was in the family's dining room.

In return for agreeing to be filmed, Emily was rewarded with a bag of sweets.

She said Postgate influenced her decision to study animation and to eventually become an artist. Emily and her boyfriend Justin Mitchell run papier-mâché art business Total Pap in Whitstable.

"I particularly remember when I got into college he was so congratulatory and it was an honour to do well," said Emily. "He was a really lovely, lovely person – and he still is."

In an interview with Kent on Sunday's Review magazine in 2003, Postgate explained the thinking behind his and Firmin's TV creations.

"We didn't set out to include an academic agenda, to educate as well as entertain, we just happened to entertain and it happened to educate as well," he said.

"What is important about the films is not how extraordinary they are, but how ordinary they are. The Clangers, for instance, is a soap of an ordinary family and their life who happen to live on a small, blue moon.

"Ivor the Engine is a perfectly normal Welsh railway engine.

"The only difference we made was that he wanted to sing in the choir."

To see this clip search 'firmin' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Peter Firmin talks about his friend Oliver Postgate

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Murderous rapist tries to overturn conviction

THE man who abducted, raped and murdered missing schoolgirl Vicky Hamilton is to appeal against his conviction, ***writes Steve Knight.***

Peter Tobin, 62, from Margate, is also looking to overturn the 30-year prison term handed to him at Dundee High Court last week.

The sentence passed by Judge Lord Emslie is one of the highest ever imposed in Scotland.

Unless Tobin is successful with his appeal it is likely he will die in prison, as he suffers from ill health and is already serving 21 years for the 2006 murder of Polish student Angelika Kluk.

His defence team is not required to state the exact grounds of the appeal until a later date.

Fifteen-year-old Vicky was snatched on a snowy Sunday afternoon in February, 1991, as she was looking for a bus to take her to her home in Bathgate, West Lothian.



SCHOOLGIRL: Victim Vicky Hamilton, 15

Tobin took her to his house in Margate where he launched his vicious attack before wrapping her remains in bags.

He then kept her body hidden for about five weeks before moving to a new home in the town, where he buried her in the garden.

Police finally discovered Vicky's remains in November last year.

Tobin's former neighbour David Martin, who still lives next door to the house where Vicky's remains were discovered, said he was stunned when he discovered what Tobin was capable of.

He told the BBC: "I looked over the fence one day and saw him digging this massive hole in the garden.

"I asked, 'What are you doing Pete? Are you going for Australia?' He said, 'No I'm digging a sand pit for the lad, somewhere for him to play'."



KILLER: Peter Tobin was jailed for 30 years for raping and murdering Vicky Hamilton

Two days later he noticed the area had been filled in again.

Mr Martin said: "I asked, 'What happened to your sand pit Pete, didn't it work out?'

"He said a social worker advised him not to have it because he said it was dangerous. I'd never heard that one before, but I didn't think too much about it at the time."

News of Tobin's appeal against his conviction and sentence is sure to come as a blow to Vicky's family, who said after the sentencing that they were looking forward to getting on with their lives.

Younger sister Lyndsay Brown said after the conviction: "We are hoping we can now move on as a family and start to remember Vicky as the loving sister she was before she was cruelly taken from us."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Manston to the icy rescue

KENT International at Manston was one of the airports to benefit from severe delays at London Gatwick on Thursday morning.

The airport's only runway was closed from 6-10.30am when operator BAA was caught off guard by the icy conditions.

It took four hours for workers to clear the ice, leading to hundreds of flight delays and cancellations that continued throughout the day.

Incoming British Airways and easyJet flights were forced to land at alternative airports throughout the South East, including Kent International, Stansted, Heathrow, Bournemouth and Luton.

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Weds 14 January	Rye	College of the Arts & Enterprise	6.30pm	9.00pm
Tues 20 January	Dungeness	Visitor Centre, RSPB Dungeness Nature Reserve	2.00pm	4.30pm
Weds 21 January	Dymchurch	Village Hall	6.30pm	9.00pm
Weds 28 January	Hythe	Methodist Church Hall	6.30pm	9.00pm
Thurs 29 January	Lydd	War Memorial Institute Club	2.30pm	5.00pm

If you would like to attend a meeting, please register in advance by submitting your name, contact details* and preferred meeting by email to mail@dungenessnewbuild.co.uk, by phone on 0800 975 5852 or on-line at www.british-energy.com/newbuild

*By registering your details, you will ensure that you are kept updated about the Dungeness New Build Programme. Your personal data will not be used for any other purpose and will not be sold onto any third party. If you do not want your details held by us, please let us know.

On 24 September 2008 the Boards of EDF and British Energy announced that they had reached agreement on the terms of recommended offers for the entire share capital of British Energy Group plc. The offer is still subject to shareholder acceptance and regulatory approval.

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Picture: MABIK DANIEL HUNT

IN GOOD VOICE: Pupils from seven primary schools visited the Royal Opera House

A night at the opera

PUPILS have been given the chance to perform a new piece of choral theatre work on the main stage at the Royal Opera House, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

Children from seven Kent primary schools are taking part in the project and 200 youngsters enjoyed a trip to the iconic venue, in London's Covent Garden, this week to watch a matinee performance of Hansel and Gretel.

They also rehearsed for their own March 2009 performance of On The Rim Of The World, a work composed specially for young singers. Kevin Rainey, the education manager at the Royal Opera House, is running the project, called Voices of the Future.

He said: "It is very much opening up the children to singing and opera as something they can enjoy. Music is not always an option for people because it is seen as elitist or something they cannot take part in.

"We want to get over that barrier and dispel a few myths."

Although the project is running nationwide, only children from Kent are being given the opportunity to perform at the world-famous opera house.

Mr Rainey said: "We have had fantastic links with schools in Kent for a long time.

"When the main stage became available for education work, we thought, 'Which area do we have a strong relationship with?' And that is very much Kent."

The children taking part are aged between eight and 11 and as well as raising standards in schools, the project is about giving individuals self-confidence.

Mr Rainey said: "Singing really brings them out of themselves and helps with collaborating and sharing ideas."

Tina Higgins, a teacher at All Souls' Primary in Folkestone, one of the schools taking part, said the children had a fantastic time watching Hansel and Gretel.

"They adored it," she said. "Even though it was in German and two hours long, they sat completely rapt throughout."

Mr Rainey said: "We have been using whole classes of children and have not been picking the best singers. Everyone has to get involved. It is about inclusion – no-one is left out."

Other primary schools taking part include Craylands Community, Swanscombe; Knockhall Community, Greenhithe; St Eanswythe's, Folkestone; Horizon, Swanley; Wincheap, Canterbury; and Lynsted and Norton, Sittingbourne.



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NEW FRIENDS: KOS Media readers have already donated a tonne of books to the African village of Kent, now there are moves to officially twin with the county's namesake in Sierra Leone

Our new African twin?

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

AN AMBITIOUS campaign has been launched to twin the county with a small fishing village in Sierra Leone called Kent.

Towns across the county are already twinned, such as Ramsgate and Chimay in Belgium, Canterbury with Rheims, France, and Tunbridge Wells with Wiesbaden in Germany.

Such partnerships were encouraged after World War Two to bring Europeans closer together.

But campaigners believe the time is right to bring the UK closer to African nations, many of which have been torn apart by recent conflicts such as the devastating civil war in Sierra Leone from 1991-2002.

The village of Kent is in the south west of the country on a peninsula that juts out into the Atlantic Ocean near the capital Freetown. There are around 1,000 residents and the people mainly earn their living from fishing.

Josie Renner, who was born there and now lives in Gravesend, is an organiser of the twinning campaign.

He said: "Both communities will learn a lot from each other and the development of a closer tie would be beneficial for both communities."

Earnshaw Palmer, a former Liberal Democrat councillor who lives in Essex, is originally from Freetown and got involved with the campaign because he believes it would be good for his home country, which remains one of the poorest in the world.



LINK: Twinning organisers, from left, Earnshaw Palmer, Josie Renner and Lib Dem James Willis

"We have had several military coups in Sierrra Leone. The last caused devastation of the infrastructure, which we are trying to recover from," he said. "This is in contrast with the abundance of mineral wealth such as gold and diamonds. Post civil war many multinational companies were running to Sierra Leone to grab resources at knock-down prices."

Kent has two primary schools, a few restaurants and shops, a recently opened nursery, a post office, police station, library and medical centre, which means it has the potential to be a thriving community.

Last year KOS readers donated a tonne of books to the village.

Mr Palmer said the village was surrounded by miles of golden beaches, which could prove attractive to visitors.

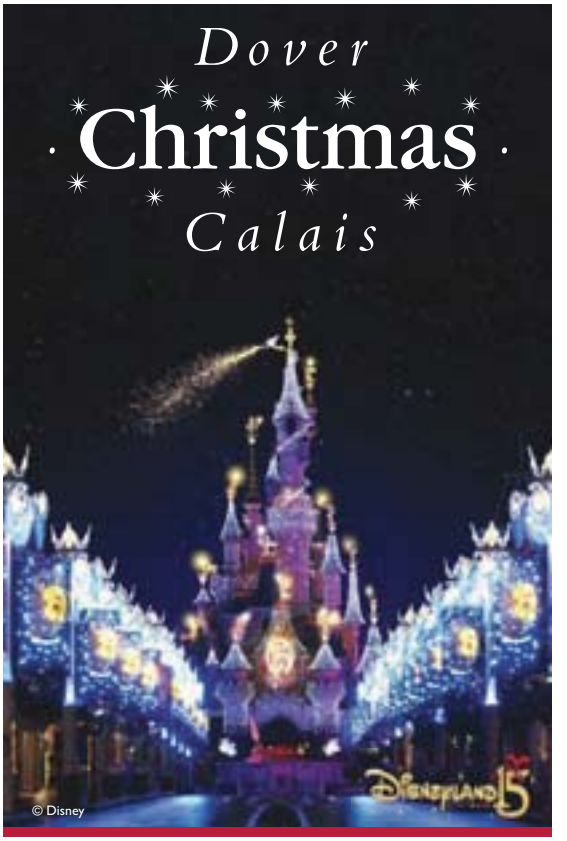
KOS Media spoke to the village leader, Tunde Savage, who welcomed the aims of the twinning to establish cultural, economic, educational and social links between the two contrasting places.

"I believe it will lead to opportunities for promoting understanding and partnership between two communities with similar names in different parts of the world," he said.

Kent County Council appeared supportive of the idea.

Cllr Alex King, deputy leader of KCC, said: "We would be interested in discussing the suggestion of twinning with Sierra Leone to investigate the benefits to the county from such a partnership."

Tim Garbutt founder of Sincerity Agency, a green and ethical marketing agency based in Canterbury, said twinning partnerships with African countries would help the country towards meeting UN targets for fighting poverty.



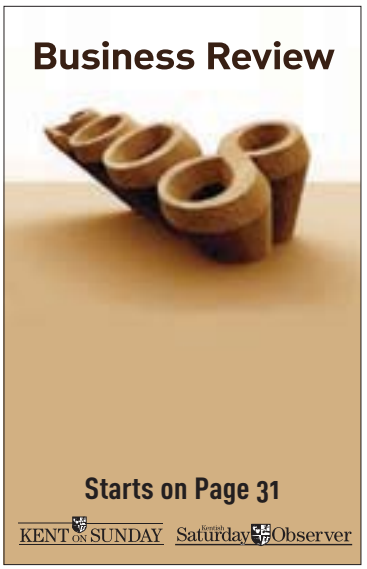
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Make a difference with 60p

KOS Media readers will have the chance to help children across the county by buying this year's Christmas charity editions of the award-winning Kent on Sunday.

Since the launch of the festive fund-raising project four years ago, more than £30,000 has been raised to support young people who face disadvantages such as disabilities and homelessness.

Editions of KoS on December 21, 28 and January 4 will be sold for 60p and this small contribution really helps, with last year's Kent Kids for Christmas appeal raising more than £11,000.

Paul Stannard, managing director of KOS Media, which publishes the newspaper, said: "Thanks to our generous readers hundreds of children across Kent have already benefited from the money raised through our Christmas charity editions. We're hoping to make this year the best yet. Your contribution really can make a difference to a young person's life and the Kent charities we support rely on donations to survive and keep on providing their invaluable support."

Last year £2,000 was donated to Demelza Hospice Care for Children, which is based near Sittingbourne and provides palliative care for youngsters with life-limiting illnesses.

Keith Lee, the charity's area fund-raising manager, thanked KoS readers, and said: "We rely almost entirely on fund-raising and public generosity to survive."

Help us raise cash for Kent's needy children

Vibrant

A further £2,000 went to Kent charity Happy Holidays, which is run by Whitstable comedian Dave Lee and provides holidays for sick and under-privileged children from Kent.

KOS Media also donated £7,000 to Help a Kent Child appeal and the money was then passed on to a number of charities across the county.

Neville Sack, charity co-ordinator at Invicta FM, which runs the appeal, said: "On the whole, Kent is very lucky. It's a great place to live, has some beautiful countryside and vibrant towns. But it's not without its share of young people who need assistance in all sorts of ways.

"Invicta FM's Help a Kent Child helps kids with illness and disability and provides grants to organisations that help children deal with the negative effects of abuse, homelessness and poverty."

Pegasus Playscheme in Dover, which provides fun activities and days out for children with disabilities such as Down's syndrome, autism and cerebral palsy, received £1,500.

The £1,600 given to Carers' Support allowed 12 young people who look after sick or disabled loved ones the chance to enjoy an adventure holiday.

Mr Sack added: "The Christmas charity editions of Kent on Sunday only costs 60p, but if enough of you buy it we will be able to send more young carers away for a weekend, or pay for more counselling sessions at Fairbridge, or pay for another place for a disabled child on a summer playscheme in Dover."

The Paddocks, near Canterbury, provides educational, recreational and therapeutic horse-riding experiences for young people with physical, mental disabilities, homeless young people and those with conditions such as ADHD and autism.

The stables' Jean Sharratt said: "We are totally dependent on projects such as Help a Kent Child."

She said the £1,800 donated last year, which paid for volunteer expenses, was vital.

Fairbridge provides support and life-changing development programmes for disengaged and disadvantaged young people across Kent, including those who have suffered mental or physical abuse. The charity received a grant of £1,500 to provide counselling sessions for 50 young people.

Kent Goldilocks Family Association, which is based at Medway Maritime Hospital, works with children up to the age of five with severe physical, mental and sensory disabilities.

Help a Kent Child contributed £2,000 to buy specially adapted toys and play equipment which are expensive, but vital for the youngsters' development.

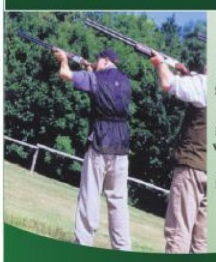
Mr Stannard added: "The wholesalers and newsagents have also agreed to do the work at cost prices to help maximise the money given to charities."

If you run a charity that you think should benefit from a donation from the Kent Kids for Christmas appeal, or you would like to nominate a charity then please let us know by writing to Kent Kids for Christmas Appeal, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SR, or visit the website www.kentkidsforchristmas.co.uk.

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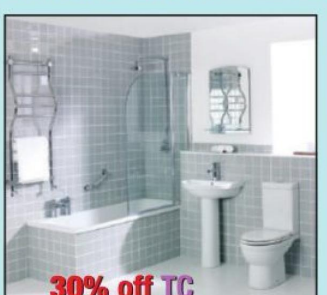


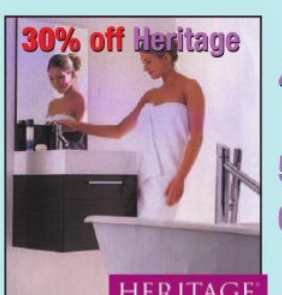




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Theatre cashes in as Joe wins jungle TV vote

SOAP star Joe Swash's victory on television's I'm A Celebrity has helped a Kent theatre beat the credit crunch.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

The former EastEnders actor is starring in Cinderella at Chatham's Central Theatre, which is reporting a large increase in ticket sales compared to last year as a result of Swash's success.

A large crowd gathered outside the venue on Wednesday to catch a glimpse of the 26-year-old old before he hurried off to rehearse his lines for the pantomime, which opened on Friday. Earlier Swash told reporters he was thankful for the support he had received throughout Kent and the rest of the country.

He said: "I haven't got a Scooby Doo [clue] why the public have taken to me, but it's so lovely they took the time to phone in and vote for me to win. It's a really overwhelming feeling.

"I had a quick look round Chatham earlier in the year and I think it's a lovely little town and the people have been really kind to me. Just walking to the theatre from McDonald's this morning was nice."

Swash flew back from Australia on Monday night for last-minute rehearsals ahead of the panto, in which he plays the part of Buttons.

But before he could hit the stage he had another fitting with the production's tailor, as his bug-heavy jungle diet had taken inches off his weight.

Picture: KNP



BUTTONS: Joe Swash

Despite spending his time taking part in gruesome bush-tucker trials rather than rehearsing his lines in the weeks leading up to the panto, Swash said he was not concerned about leaving it late.

He said: "When I was in EastEnders I got used to learning my lines quite quickly so I've got most of my lines in Cinderella down to pat now. One more night and I should have it. Timmy Mallet and a couple of the other guys on I'm A Celebrity have been in pantomime before and they were telling me how enjoyable it was, so I've been really looking forward to it.

"The whole experience has been really bizarre though. I didn't think I had a hope in hell of winning. This sort of thing doesn't happen to me."

The decision to sign Swash to the role of Buttons in Cinderella has paid dividends for producer Emily Wood, of Evolution Pantomimes.

She said: "We knew he was in line for a reality show, but we didn't know it was I'm A Celebrity until the day before he flew out. We were all keeping our fingers crossed that he would win, even though we knew we would have to work around it in preparing for Cinderella.

"Joe is so modest, but we all know the reason why he won and that's because he's such an honest, fantastic guy and is such a joy to be around."

Missing captain is discovered dead

THE man behind the Sheppey aviation centenary celebrations planned for next year has been found dead in the grounds of his home with serious head injuries.

But police say they are not treating the death of Captain John Carter as "suspicious".

The 69-year-old had been reported missing after leaving his Warden Point home on Monday afternoon – when he told a family member he was setting out for a walk.

When he failed to return police were alerted and a search involving the Sheerness lifeboat, Sheppey Coastguard and a rescue helicopter from RAF Wattisham, Suffolk, took place.

The planned anniversary event is to commemorate July, 1909, when flying pioneers Short Brothers established Shellbeach Aerodrome on nearby marshland to accommodate six Wright Flyer biplanes.

Capt Carter was confident 10,000 people would come to the Sky Sheppey event to mark the 100th anniversary of the first flight by a Briton. He leaves behind wife Kathleen, and son Robin.

£4 million extra for regeneration

ASHFORD'S growth plans have been given a £4 million boost by the Government.

The Ashford's Future partnership bid for extra funds in October to help the town meet its regeneration plans.

Ashford was initially awarded a £21.5m capital building programme by the Department of Communities and Local Government a year ago and ministers have now agreed a further £4m grant.

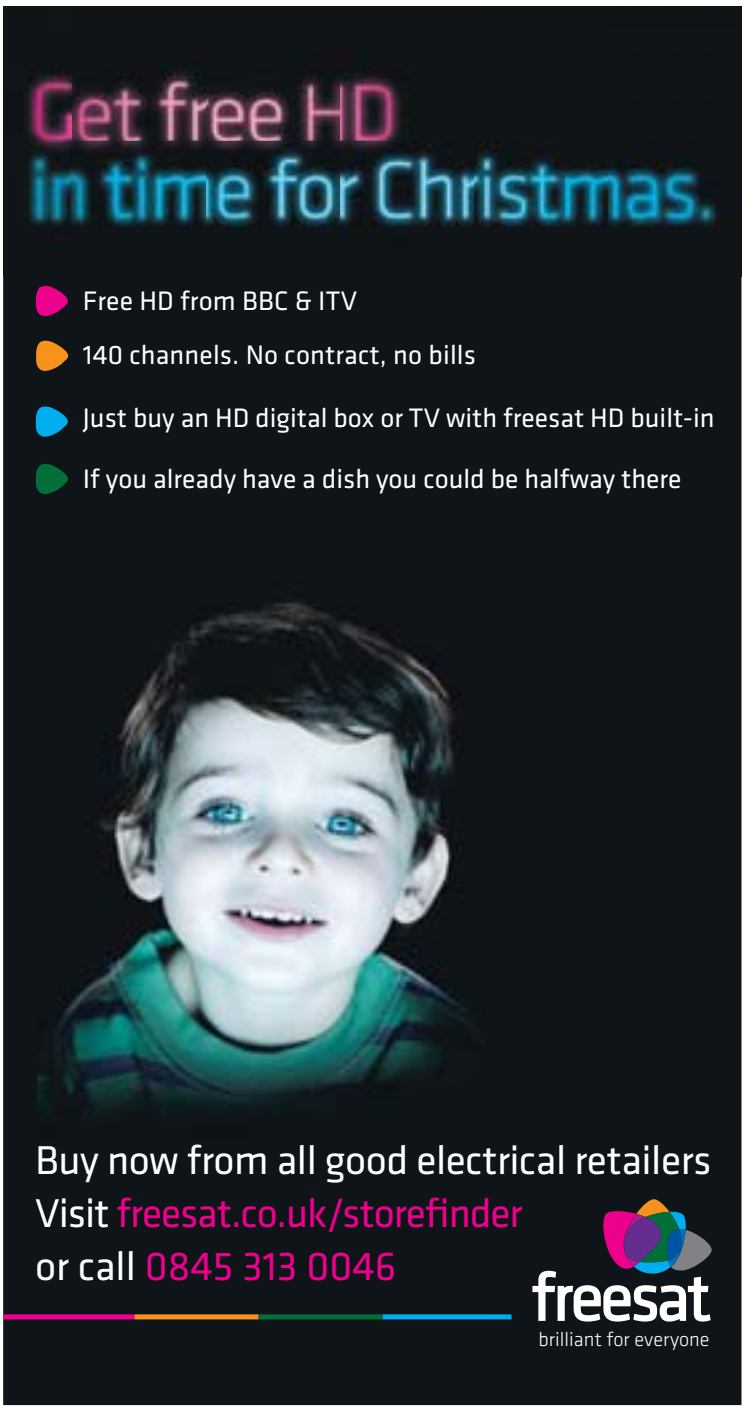
The additional funding will be allocated to projects most likely to stimulate housing growth and new jobs.

And there could be further good news to come. The Ashford's Future partnership is still waiting to hear the outcome of other funding bids, which could mean more money being ploughed into the town's regeneration.

The town has been shortlisted for Regional Infrastructure Funding, and has an opportunity for a share of £200m of Community Infrastructure Funding.

Ashford is set to double in size by 2031, creating 28,000 extra jobs and 31,000 new homes.





Seafront development shows Thanet is place to do business

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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BUILDING work on a flagship waterfront development of luxury apartments, a hotel and restaurants in Thanet is set to go-ahead despite the current economic downturn.

Work has stalled on new housing projects across the country, including the Thames Gateway, but developer SFP Ventures UK Ltd announced the Royal Sands in Ramsgate will continue as planned.

Cardy Construction of Canterbury has now been appointed main contractor for the project, the developer revealed.





DONE DEAL: Shaun Keegan (left) and Mick Stannard shake on the new development

Shaun Keegan, a director of SFP, said: "Despite the current economic climate we have taken a view that the Ramsgate project will go ahead as planned.

"We are completely committed to seeing this exciting development through and we are delighted to have been able to award the contract to a local company."

He said that cliff-face repairs to the site at Marine Parade would be finished by Christmas and building work would start next year.

"This will be a great boost for Ramsgate and the regeneration of Thanet and will ensure more local employment over the next two to three years," Mr Keegan added.

Mick Stannard, contract director for Cardy, said the company was pleased to have won the building contract for the development.

"We see this development to be one of the most exciting projects to hit Ramsgate for some time," he said.

"Our track record and experience on other multi-million pound hotel and residential developments of high quality have enabled us to secure this contract. It also so pleasing that SFP has shown such a commitment to a local company which will ensure that job opportunities will be made available for local tradesmen."

Terence Painter, the agent working for SFP, said the project showed that businesses were continuing to invest in Thanet.

He added: "With projects like Royal Sands, China Gateway and Thanet Earth we can clearly see that confidence in Thanet is still high.

"These projects together with the London Array wind farm back on track, the fast rail-link coming in December, 2009, and the recently released new master-plan for Kent International Airport, investors can clearly see that Thanet is a place to do business."

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Prince Commends Road Safety Team

At Kent Highway Services, we know that road safety is vitally important and the team that delivers road safety programmes has now been rewarded for its achievements.

They have just been highly commended by the Prince Michael of Kent International Road Safety Awards, which recognise the most outstanding examples of road safety. The team received an award for its programme of education, training and publicity, which meant 471 fewer people were killed or seriously injured, in 2007, on roads that Kent Highway Services look after.

In fact, the programme has been so successful that we've met the Government's target of a 40% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured on Kent's roads three years earlier than the 2010 deadline.

However, this award doesn't mean that we'll be resting on our laurels – we're committed to keep reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on the county's roads.

We're still delivering a range of educational, training and publicity activities that are aimed at all road users including young drivers, motorcyclists and drink drivers. Those activities include driver education courses such as the Speed Awareness Scheme, pedestrian training for younger primary school children, cyclist training for year 6 pupils and young driver education.

We'll keep working hard to make sure that Kent's roads are safer for everyone!



Building a new road

Kent Highway Services looks after 5,000 miles of existing roads in Kent, but sometimes we need to build a new road to reduce congestion through a town or village, provide access to a new development or change an existing site to improve road safety.

Building a new road sounds simple, but there's actually a detailed process involved. Once a new road has been agreed and programmed, we have to look at a range of things to make sure that everything is properly assessed and accounted for in the final design. A really important part of this is consulting with all the interested parties. In some cases a public enquiry may even be required.

We need to carry out survey work too before we can determine the alignment of a new road. We look at the nature of the subsoil and the layout of the existing ground, and we assess the impact of a new road on the environment. It is also important to review the past history of a site, specifically archaeology.

The final design of a new road will also consider the speed of future traffic and the amount of traffic expected to use it.

With all this, it's not surprising that new roads can sometimes take years to prepare before construction begins, but this planning means that when new roads are needed, they are in the right place and have minimum impact on the environment. Good design also helps reduce the cost of future maintenance.

Travel by bus and get Christmas all wrapped up



If you usually drive to your nearest town to do the Christmas shopping, you've probably already found yourself queuing for car parks and it won't get any better in the run up to Christmas!

So why not take the bus instead? A full Monday to Friday service will operate on most bus services in Kent, right up to Christmas Eve, although some routes may finish earlier than usual on the 24th.

If you're planning to use the bus during the week between Christmas and New Year the following services will operate:

Dec 25 - No services
Dec 26 - No services except on some Transport for London routes which operate in Kent
Dec 27 - Saturday services as usual
Dec 28 - Sunday services as usual
Dec 29, 30, 31 - Saturday services
Jan 1 - Sunday services except some Stagecoach services in East Kent will not operate
Jan 2 - Saturday services on Arriva and other operators in West Kent, and Monday to Friday services on Stagecoach routes in East Kent
Jan 3 - Normal services resume

Some routes which operate on one or two days a week may have a service on another day, if the usual days of operation falls on a day when there is no service because of Christmas.

Please remember to check before you travel by contacting the bus operator or you can call Traveline on **0871 200 2233.**

Travel Update

Kent Highway Services

Below are roadworks and events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.

Gravesend

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
current	17.12.08	Pelham Road, Gravesend	Temporary traffic lights – gas mains works

Sevenoaks

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
current	19.12.08	London Road, Swanley	Temporary traffic lights – new gas mains

Shepway

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
current	22.12.08	Burmarsh Road, Hythe	Road closure – water mains works
current	24.12.08	Church Road, Folkestone	Lane closure – gas mains works
current	5.1.09	Cheriton High Street, Folkestone	Temporary traffic lights – gas mains works

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/travel

See www.KentTV.com for up-to-date travel information

For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Eurosceptic party leader Farage attacks 'anti-foreigners'

Ukip defends MEP choice of Spaniard

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE leader of the UK Independence Party (Ukip) has blasted the "anti-foreigners" who oppose Marta Andreasen's candidacy for European Parliament.

Last week KOS Media exclusively revealed how Mrs Andreasen – the Spanish former chief accountant of the European Commission – planned to run as an MEP for the South East in next year's elections.

The story prompted an angry response from readers who claimed she was ineligible to do so as she was not a UK resident.

However, Ukip leader Nigel Farage, who lives in Westerham, said those who oppose Mrs Andreasen's nomination are simply trying to hamper the party's progress.

He told KOS Media: "I would be quite surprised if those who contacted you were actually Ukip members.

"There is certainly considerable evidence that some people are masquerading as members and trying to make as many negative comments as they can.

"I may not be Albert Einstein but I'm not about to go breaking electoral law by allowing somebody who is ineligible to stand to do just that.

"It is entirely legal for Marta to be a candidate. She has taken up a residence in this country and she will be on the electoral roll by the time the elections come around.

'Pernickety'

"Those people who oppose her are simply being pernickety because they are anti-foreigners.

"Don't forget that I am the number one candidate for the South East and Marta is the number two. We have an open voting process and she was some way ahead of the others."

Mrs Andreasen was fired from the EC in 2005 for raising concerns about the potential for fraud in the European Union. She is now Ukip's treasurer.

She told KOS Media that her inside knowledge made her the perfect candidate to represent the people of Kent and the South East.

Mr Farage said he had total confidence in Mrs Andreasen's ability to become an MEP, even if there were others who did not.

He said: "I've seen some of the comments made in internet chat rooms and on blog sites, and they've been made chiefly by anti-foreigners.

"Generally, people in the party think Marta is absolutely fantastic. Some people think it strange that there's a Spaniard running for the UK Independence Party.

"But it's not just people in Britain who want out of the European Union. Our neighbours in other countries feel the same way, too. I will unashamedly work with Eurosceptics across the Continent."



MARTA ANDREASEN: Has the full support of Ukip leader Nigel Farage

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Wrestler's gripping role in Rourke film

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A CAMEO appearance by a Maidstone muscleman forms part of Hollywood star Mickey Rourke's big comeback after years in the movie wilderness.

Nigel McGuinness was one of a number of pro wrestlers to land a part in The Wrestler, which received a Golden Lion award for best film at the Venice Film Festival and is due to be released in the UK next month.

The 32-year-old, who is widely regarded as one of the best grapplers not currently working for World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE), told KOS Media he enjoyed being involved with the American shoot, despite only being featured for a matter of seconds.

He said: "I have a very small role, I believe. I'm talking to [former WWE star] Ernest Miller's character when Mickey's character comes into the building for the big show at the end of the movie.

"We did about 30 takes to get it perfect so I'm not sure which one they'll use. I don't think there'll be any talk of Oscar nominations like there are for Mickey, unless I'm nominated for 'best nod in a scene by an untrained actor'.

"It was a fantastic experience to be a part of though. To see the inner workings of a movie, meet guys like Mickey and Darren [director Darren Aronofsky] and see everything that goes into it was brilliant.

"It's certainly something I'd like to do more of, and who wouldn't?"

Rourke became a star in the mid-1980s thanks mainly to his performance alongside Kim Basinger in the erotic thriller 9 1/2 Weeks, but he soon gained a reputation for being difficult backstage.

He also starred in cult hits including Diner, Rumblefish, Angel Heart and Barfly.

But following a series of poor career choices, which saw him turn down major parts in The Untouchables, Rain Man, Beverley Hills Cop, The Silence of the Lambs, Pulp Fiction, Highlander, Platoon and more, Rourke fell off the movie map altogether.

He returned to form as the hard-hitting Marv in the 2005 film adaptation of graphic novel Sin City, but The Wrestler is seen by critics as the film that could truly relaunch his career.





BIT PART: Nigel McGuinness appears in hard-hitting movie, The Wrestler, starring Mickey Rourke (above)

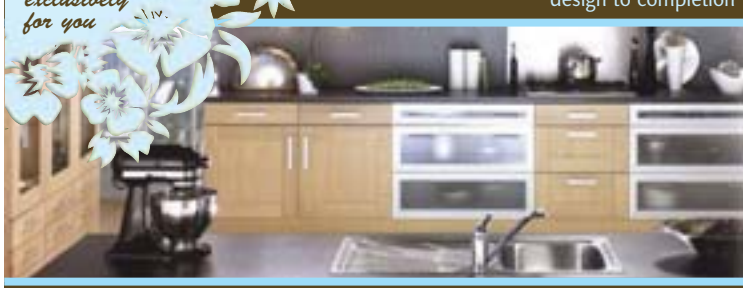
Inspiration

McGuinness, who grew up in Staplehurst and attended Maidstone Grammar School, said: "I hear it's really something in how it portrays the wrestling business with such reality and inspiration.

"It was something that was a long time coming but I hope everyone who's struggled with mainstream acceptance for what we do in the ring will receive some degree of it once the movie hits theatres.

"Hopefully then more women will begin to recognise me on the street too."

In preparation for his role, Rourke was trained by respected Samoan grappler, Afa Anoa'i, whose relatives in the business include current WWE stars Umaga and Manu, and Hollywood leading man Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson.

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Post office raiders miss out

A GANG who tried to drag a cash machine from a post office using a car fled empty-handed.

They broke into Hextable Post Office, near Swanley, at 1.55am on Monday.

An attempt to drag the cash machine from the shop using a 4x4 failed and at least three people then ran from the shop and drove off in a small Peugeot car.

A Jeep Cherokee was abandoned outside the post office.

Officers would like to talk to anyone who may have seen the vehicles in the area around the time of the incident or as the Peugeot drove away from the shop.

Anyone with information about this incident can contact police on 01732 379217 or Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Treasures donated to nation pay off tax bills

HISTORICAL collections from two of Kent's stately homes have been passed into public ownership for the first time, ***writes Steve Knight.***

Artefacts from Sissinghurst Castle, near Maidstone, and Scotney Castle, near Tunbridge Wells, were donated by their owners to the National Trust in place of inheritance tax that is payable every time family heirlooms are passed down a generation.

Included in the collections are the contents of the Tudor tower at Sissinghurst, which include much of the work of the late poet and resident Vita Sackville-West.

Furniture at the Scotney Castle home of the distinguished architectural historian Christopher Hussey has also been donated, as well as paintings and other decorative objects.

More than £15 million worth of artefacts have been passed into public ownership through the Acceptance in Lieu scheme, which is administered by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) on behalf of the Government.

A report containing information on each object and collection was published on Thursday.

Culture minister Barbara Follett said: "This report just goes to show how many treasures have been saved for the British public as a result of the Acceptance in Lieu scheme.

"Whether it be furniture, a painting or a historical document, these aspects of our heritage have been preserved for the nation and will give many visitors pleasure and insight into their history, which would otherwise have been lost."

The Kent artefacts form part of 32 separate transfers completed this year totalling £15.2m, writing off £10.3m of tax.

MLA chairman Andrew Motion said: "Alongside other partners, including Arts Council England and the National Museum Directors' Conference, the MLA encourages and celebrates the habit and joy of private giving for the public good.

"We urge people to consider matching the example of philanthropists whose names are reflected in many great collections, libraries, galleries and places of learning.

"We believe this to be an important part of developing the heritage and wealth of our cultural life at any time, but we see it as especially crucial now we are in the midst of economic recession."



FOREVER HOME: Scotney Castle

Undershirt

Other historical artefacts now under public ownership include a range of objects associated with Lord Nelson, such as the armchair he used on HMS Victory and an undershirt embroidered with a coronet.

Two watercolours by the 19th century painter JMW Turner are also included, as is a draft version of a document declaring Napoleon an outlaw prior to the Battle of Waterloo.



IT's a valuable gift for schools

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A CHARITY based in Kent has urged people thinking of splashing out on new computers this Christmas to donate their unwanted laptops and PCs to schoolchildren in Africa.

Africa has the lowest ratio of computers to people in the world and most residents and organisations cannot afford them – meaning only the wealthy have access to IT equipment and training.

Computers 4 Africa, based in Maidstone, has been running appeals for used PCs, laptops and other IT equipment across the UK since 2006 and has shipped around 3,400 items to schools and community projects in Africa.

Avril Mhundura, a spokesman for the charity who is originally from Zimbabwe, said if people in Kent were thinking of buying replacement computers for their families this Christmas their unwanted equipment would be of great benefit to schools and families in Africa.

Toxic chemicals

"There are so many upgrades and new technology being developed and becoming available all the time in the UK," he said. "Sometimes people change their equipment every two years but the systems will still be good enough to be used in Africa."

The charity ships the donated computers to a training college in Dar es Salaam, the commercial capital of Tanzania.

Students use them as a learning resource – checking they are still working after shipping and installing operating systems before they are re-distributed to schools.

Donating computers to the charity also helps the environment: once the equipment reaches the end of its working life in Africa it is stripped down into basic components and the materials are recycled to make new products.

It also stops dumped PCs and laptops going to landfill sites where toxic chemicals can leak out into the ground, he said.

Faith Dziruni, 24, who works as a volunteer at the charity, is also from Zimbabwe and said she never had access to a computer while growing up.

"It is usually only the very rich who have access to them. Most people have never seen a computer," she said. "It is so important for people to gain these skills, especially in the isolated villages.

"Many people cannot afford the money for further education but if you have IT skills you can use them to get good jobs.

"It is such a privilege to be able to send computers out to Africa."

The charity's work has mainly centred on Tanzanian schools but computers have also been sent to Kenya, Zimbabwe and Senegal.

Miss Dziruni added: "We want to reverse the trend of only rich people accessing computers and give poor people the opportunity to learn."

Donated computers collected through appeals across the UK are taken back to the charity's base where they are checked and the memories are wiped using a special software programme called E band.

Mr Mhundura said the charity was currently hoping it would be able to send computers to more African countries and he was currently checking out a contact in Gambia to see if they were legitimate.

"We have to ensure the computers reach the schoolchildren and that they are properly recycled," he added.

The long-term aim of the charity is to improve African economies by providing education in information and communication technology to as many African students as possible.

KOS Media readers can donate computers by dropping them off at the charity's Maidstone headquarters, or if there are more than five items a pick-up service is offered.

See www.com puters4africa.org.uk or call 0845 2008510.

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THRILLED: Our old computers are still great for children in African schools

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New START











When two towns go to war

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk





MARCH OF TIME: King George V rides through Cheriton in 1915; street party in Victoria Street, Dover, after Armistice Day

AS THE Armistice Treaty came into effect at 11am on November 11, 1918, church bells began to ring and fireworks filled the skies as Britain celebrated the official end of the Great War.

However, in Folkestone thousands of troops grew impatient that it was taking so long to be demobbed, while others were reluctant to return overseas and by January, 1919, a full-scale mutiny was under way.



BY THE BOOK: Michael and Christine George

This little-known episode and others from the home front are explored in a new book, Dover and Folkestone During the Great War, by husband and wife team Michael and Christine George.

Mr George, who lives in Folkestone, said there was real concern that a revolution akin to the one then taking place in Russia was about to start in Britain as tensions grew in the aftermath of the conflict.

"The situation became really serious. Earl Haig [Army commander on the Western Front] was saying 'Arrest the ringleaders and shoot them', but Prime Minister Lloyd George resolved the situation by offering concessions to the soldiers," he said.

The author, who works as a solicitor and Crown prosecutor, has a keen interest in the history of the Kent and has presented a mini-series on BBC radio and worked on Channel 4's Time Team.

"Both towns were very much on the frontline," he said. "Throughout history they have been in competition – over cross-Channel travel and other things – then the Great War started and they had to work together.

"A lot of troops, millions, travelled from England to France from Folkestone and Royal Navy ships were based in Dover. The book is centred on what life was like in the towns and how they changed."

The book opens at the beginning of the Edwardian period, with a picture of the Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II, Queen Victoria's grandson, being welcomed to Shorncliffe Camp, near Sandgate, in 1902.

Mr George said: "At the end of the Victorian era, they were very genteel seaside towns where people could take the air and enjoy trips to France.

"Then all of a sudden, practically overnight, that all changed and they became dirty, muddy Army camps.

"Neither town has fully recovered from the outbreak of war, which marked the end of the heyday for Folkestone and Dover."

People in Folkestone became particularly wary about German spies, especially after a poster campaign warning against loose talk and telling them to look out for signs of espionage.

Mr George said: "There is a terrific story about a well-known lady who lived in east Folkestone and was always causing trouble.

"She assaulted a man she accused of intelligence-gathering for the Germans. She claimed to have seen him drawing pictures and releasing carrier pigeons with secret messages."

The man was a perfectly innocent travelling salesman with a German-sounding name.

"Anyone with an accent or foreign-sounding name was under suspicion and a lot of people used this to settle old scores. It is interesting that against the background of all this paranoia, Folkestone was a major spy centre," he said.

Folkestone was the centre of Military Intelligence, later to become MI5, during the Great War. Among those recruited was Louise de Bettignies, who arrived in the town in 1914. She was from a noble French family and bravely agreed to act as an agent under the name Alice Dubois.

She was sent to France to set up a network of spies and arrange escape routes for Allied prisoners.

But she was caught and died of tuberculosis while serving a life sentence.

Mr George said: "Our research sources were wide and varied to try to give a real feel for what it was like at the time."

The book is published by Pen and Sword and costs £10.99.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk



WIN! a Christmas portrait experience with Venture

CHRISTMAS is the time of year when we start panicking and all creativity goes out the window as we start to make last-minute purchases of impersonal gifts, like novelty socks, chocolates and executive toys.

This year, why not prove it's the thought that counts, and get a little more personal with your Christmas presents by giving a Venture experience?

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In the run-up to Christmas, Venture Canterbury is offering 11 lucky readers the chance to win their very own creative session at its state-of-the-art studio on Lower Bridge Street, where the true personality of you and your family can be encapsulated in a personalised piece of contemporary art this Christmas

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Send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Venture Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

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4. Voucher is not transferable.
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9. You may use the value of the 7"x5" framed image (£95) against the cost of a larger display.
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12. Credit card details must be provided at the time of booking. If an appointment is changed or cancelled without five-days notice, a £25 charge may be applicable.
13. Venture photo sessions involve physical activity and are undertaken at your own risk.
14. If you received this voucher as a gift and would prefer not to be contacted with regards to registering the voucher and arranging your venture experience please contact us at the studio – details as shown on this voucher.
15. Please tick the box if you do not want to receive information about Venture.
16. Competition not open to employees of Venture UK, Production & Studios or associated agencies.

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NEW GENERATION PORTRAITS



Jail for sword man

A MAN who threatened youths with a Samurai sword before pushing one of them into a wall has been jailed for 18 months.

Andrew Vousden, 43, from Bexley, confronted the five teenagers at about 11pm on Saturday, February 23, claiming they had harassed his wife earlier in the night.

After threatening them with the 12-inch blade he pushed one of them into a low wall, rupturing the 17-year-old's spleen. The youngster later required life-saving surgery.

Vousden, who is unemployed, pleaded guilty to charges of unlawful wounding and possession of a Samurai sword.

The court heard how the youngsters, all aged between 17 and 18, had bought food at a kebab shop in Erith and were standing at a nearby bus stop when Vousden pulled up in a people-carrier.

He fled following the attack, but was arrested just over a week later.

Vousden was sentenced to 18 months for unlawful wounding and six months for possession of a bladed article, to run simultaneously.



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Port holds key to economy

Freight movement to signal recovery, says expert

By **TONY PATEY**
KOS Media Business Editor

AN ECONOMIST has uncovered what he claims to be strong evidence that there is a link between freight movement levels through Dover's port and the overall health of the UK economy.

Alexander Jan, director of business economics and strategy at international design and engineering consultancy Scott Wilson, even says anyone looking for signs of economic recovery would do well to track these freight movements.

Research

However, correlations such as this must be treated carefully and research must be done to rule out any other influence before they are accepted as direct proofs.

Mr Jan said: "For every £1 billion increase in the UK's annual GDP, Britain's busiest ro-ro (roll-on, roll-off) freight port handles an additional 900 inbound lorries.

"Since 1996, GDP has grown by 90.9 per cent – an average of 1.3 per cent a year. Over the same period, inbound freight increased by 115.6 per cent – averaging 1.6 per cent a year."

The Port of Dover handles as many as 10,000 HGVs a day – bringing food, clothing, components and manufactured goods into the UK and taking UK exports to mainland Europe and beyond.

Bob Goldfield, chief executive of the Port of Dover, has maintained for years the port acts as an accurate economic gauge: "For the first two months of this year, freight volumes continued to increase.

"However, clear signs of an economic downturn – even recession – can be seen starting to take effect from March, and by June this year, when freight movements were down by 3.6 per cent over the same period last year.

"This is exactly the time that governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King, now concedes that the UK economy stopped growing."

The Port of Dover is currently has a £420 million expansion programme, which includes development of a second ferry terminal with four ferry berths within the harbour.

An environmental impact study is due for completion by the end of the year. The Board anticipates beginning the formal planning consent process early next year.

However, freight movements through Dover form only one part of the economic jigsaw.

For example, large container ships are seen daily on the River Thames, and an increase in traffic through any particular port may be as a result of better facilities, or a decrease might be due to many factors.

The most famous 'correlation' for economists is the so-called Phillips Curve – named after AW Phillips who developed the idea in the UK in 1958 – which is a curve apparently showing a relationship between the unemployment rate and the annual rate of increase in the price level (inflation).

It's good in theory, but many economists say that unemployment's influence is only a small portion of a much larger inflation picture that includes prices of raw materials, intermediate goods, cost of raising capital, worker productivity, land, and other factors.



GAUGE: Scott Wilson says tracking freight movements could indicate signs of an end to credit crunch





Pictures: ANNA BEDNAREK



APPLAUSE: Troops from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders march through Canterbury

Celebrations tinged with sadness for lost comrade

Homecoming parade salutes

By **JAMIE McGINNES**
jamie.mcginnes@kosmedia.co.uk

THOUSANDS of well-wishers lined Canterbury's streets to welcome soldiers based in the city back after a six-month tour of Afghanistan.

More than 500 troops from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (5 Scots) arrived back in the UK in October and have been given the Freedom of the City of Canterbury.

After receiving campaign medals at Howe Barracks last Sunday morning, they marched through Canterbury with bayonets fixed to their rifles. They were accompanied by the regimental mascot, Cruachan, a Shetland pony, the Pipe Band of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Brass Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Special day

Lieutenant General Andrew Graham, Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, was presented with the freedom scroll by the Lord Mayor, Carolyn Parry, before soldiers

Kent Highway Services

For information and advice on travelling in Kent, go to page **16**.

For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages **69 & 70**.

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ON PARADE: Troops display their colours

city's brave regiment

headed to Canterbury Cathedral for a service of thanksgiving and remembrance.

Captain Stevie Rae, 39, spokesman for the battalion, said it was a proud day – but one tinged with sadness due to the absence of Lance Corporal James 'Jimmy' Johnson, who died in Afghanistan in June.

"It's great to be back, see the families and more importantly all the guys back safely," said the father-of-two.

But he added: "Clearly we can't forget wee Jimmy Johnson on a day like this. It's a special day, but all the guys are remembering Jimmy in their own special way today and throughout the homecoming events in Scotland."

Chatham-born L/Cpl Johnson, 31, was killed by an anti-personnel mine near Helmand Province's capital Lashkar Gah.

Lieutenant Colonel David Richmond, 5 Scots' commanding officer, was among other soldiers injured, when he was shot in the leg.

The 42-year-old said his soldiers had a successful tour.

He said: "Did we leave the bits in Afghanistan in which we worked in a slightly better place than it was when we arrived? Yes we did.

"We made small steps of progress, which is really realistically all you can expect to make at battlegroup level, in lots of places."

Lt Col Richmond added: "It's a very proud day for the battalion. We're really, genuinely honoured to be given this freedom of the city. We thank the council and the people of Canterbury for all their support. It does make a difference."

The soldiers had a four-week break on returning from Afghanistan and will have three weeks off over Christmas.

News and sport updated daily
www.kentnews.co.uk



HONOURED: Lieutenant General Andrew Graham gives medals to soldiers from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (5 Scots), including Lieutenant Colonel David Richmond, far left, on crutches

Hospital set for upgrade to facilities

THE X-ray department Edenbridge and District War Memorial Hospital is to be upgraded to become a state-of-the-art facility. The work will start in mid-January and last three months.

As well as the installation of new modern digital X-ray facilities, the works will also include the upgrading of the podiatry and minor operations clinics.

During the works X-ray services will be carried out at Sevenoaks Hospital.

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images of Kent



THIS shot was taken by Neil Anthony, who said: "I walked around Stodmarsh Nature Reserve and found the late afternoon light of winter so incredibly moving and atmospheric I had to try and capture the moment."

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Church bronze cross is stolen

THIEVES have stolen a three foot high bronze cross from outside St Martin's Church in Herne Street, Herne Bay.

The cross was last seen on the roofed gateway to the churchyard on Sunday and was reported missing on Monday.

Police say it is believed the cross has been taken for its metal value and officers are appealing for information about the theft.

Contact PC Mark Rogers or Community Support Officer Matt Hand from the Herne Bay neighbourhood team on 01227 744732.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

History projects offered funding

ORGANISATIONS, groups and individuals have been invited to apply to the Kent Archaeological Society for grants from a fund that helps to pay for research, publishing, exhibitions and other projects aimed at encouraging interest in local history.

The society administers the Allen Grove Local History Fund, from which up to £1,400 is distributed every year in amounts that usually range from £200-400. Larger sums are available for "exceptional projects".

Allen Grove was one of the county's most eminent historians of his generation, and was curator of Maidstone Museum from 1948-75. Details and application forms are available at www.kentarchaeology.org.uk.

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Business Review



Celebrating Kent Business

EVERY business in any market has a fight on their hands at the moment to win customers from their competitors.

And if they haven't realised it already, anyone with money to spend will soon work out that they are in a position to expect outstanding customer care – and if you aren't prepared to provide it, you can be sure a competitor will.

This year's Business Review highlights a defiance and determination in the face of difficult market conditions.

We all know about the businesses that have gone in recent months, but today we highlight some of the firms which have not only managed to survive the downturn, but have thrived and are planning for the future.

What comes over loud and clear as one of the key components for success is excellent customer care.

Know your products, understand the market, and go the extra mile every time to give the customer what they want.

Here at KOS Media we have been concentrating on improving our newspapers and websites in 2008 so we can better serve our readers and advertisers.

Our midweek Yourlocal newspapers and websites covering Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Maidstone, Medway, Shepway, Swale and Thanet have gone from strength to strength – building their reputation in the market while the reporters have been working hard to bring you the local news that matters.

Yourkenttv.co.uk, our free broadband TV service featuring films uploaded by our viewers and reporters, has continued to break new ground and make the most of what the internet can offer.

The award-winning e-editions of Kent on Sunday, the Saturday Observer and our midweek titles have become increasingly popular with readers who have been attracted by the 'Go green, read it free on screen' campaign.

The e-editions, for which you can receive free weekly alerts, now also include video on the page, to provide a truly multi-media experience.

Everyone knows 2009 is going to be a tough year for businesses, but the best will survive and entrepreneurs will always see an opportunity in every situation.

KOS Media has produced this special business supplement to highlight our support for Kent companies and to share their stories with our readers.

We wish all our advertisers and readers a happy and prosperous New Year, and the best of luck for 2009.

SEE INSIDE FOR THIS YEAR'S REVIEW OF LOCAL BUSINESSES

KOS media

Award Winning Company

BUSINESS review 2008

The Old Sawmills Furniture Company

Big enough to cope, small enough to care

THE OLD Sawmills Furniture Company based in Bethersden, near Ashford is a specialist in its field and has grown to become one of the best in the county.

High quality, custom-made, traditional and modern furniture for the home and office is what the business focuses upon, with an out-of-town showroom and its own spray room to demonstrate for clients what it can do.

Whether you are looking for made-to-measure fitted office furniture or quality reproduction desks, or planning a new-look bedroom for both modern and custom build, a service second to none is promised.

The company first started as a small joinery shop servicing the construction industry.

It was then commissioned to build a new office for one of its clients, leading to further commissions for one-off bespoke pieces for other customers who were impressed with the quality of the craftsmanship.

Among the products and services on offer are desks, bookcases, dressers, bedroom furniture, mirrors and gifts.

High quality custom wood furniture is also available, including bespoke pine and oak for filing and dressing cabinets, traditional and modern dining furniture, occasional furniture, leather chairs, melusine furniture and office furniture.

Old Sawmills has been established at its current location in south Kent for six years and during that time has extended the facilities to include the workshop, showroom and spray room, the latter of which can be used to match colours for clients' existing furniture.

Just one reason for the business' continued success is its size and customer-based approach, according to the company's managing director Michael O'Brien.

He said: "By keeping the business small we can always give our clients preferential treatment and hope that they return time and time again.

"Big enough to cope, small enough to care."

The company offers free delivery within Kent together with a free design and measuring service. Opening times are from 9am to 4.30pm Monday-Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturday.











BUSINESS review 2008

Kingfisher Blinds

You don't have to join the recession

We at Kingfisher Blinds have just undergone our first major refit for 10 years.

In these difficult times I have to be focused on the future, and I have invested a lot of time and money on bringing Kingfisher to the forefront of the blinds industry.

With the valued help of our builders, Electrotech electrical engineers, Diamond Floorings, and sign makers Signs and Imaging, we feel we have achieved a major new look to our business.

Both Marion and Alan, important team members, have contributed with ideas and practical work during this refurbishment.

One other major contribution comes from Bill Fox of Action Business Coaching who has guided the success of Kingfisher over the past two years – thanks Bill for your patience and expertise which has helped to grow a strong base for Kingfisher to build on.

Kingfisher Blinds was established in 1985 by Vic and Marion King with the aim to provide window blinds and awnings to the commercial sector.

After a short while Kingfisher had secured contracts with local and national companies as well as local authorities. These include schools, colleges, hospitals, NHS trusts as well as blue-chip companies.

Over the next 14 years Kingfisher Blinds became renowned for their quality products and excellent service.

As increasing numbers of customers sought to buy blinds and awnings from Kingfisher, it was decided to service the growing domestic market and in 1999 the company's first showroom was opened, in Ashford.

Since then the company has gone from strength to strength, running marketing campaigns and increasing the number of employees.

So let's not be all doom and gloom and think positive, our new showroom opened on Sunday, December 7, 2008.

One last thank you to all our customers and suppliers for their continued support.

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BUSINESS review 2008

St Georges

Chevy dealer driving forward service



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ST GEORGES Chevrolet dealership in Margate has consistently been able to offer a wide range and availability of new models which are now in demand more than ever.

First established as selling only Volkswagens nearly 30 years ago, it became a main Chevrolet dealer in 2006 as part of an ambition to establish a value-for-money brand, based in the seaside town but covering the whole of east Kent.

In addition to being a main Chevrolet dealer, St Georges are also Volkswagen authorised repairers which means they can continue to offer their renowned workshop services to Volkswagen drivers.

Since taking on the Chevrolet brand they have continued to exceed their sales targets by offering in-demand vehicles such as competitively priced models coupled with ultimate deals for both new Chevrolets and an extensive selection of high quality used cars.

Chevrolet's commitment to the Motability Scheme was one of the main reasons that St Georges acquired the franchise and it believes it offers the UK's best range of no-deposit Motability contract hire vehicles.

Should you be looking to change your existing vehicle or are new to the scheme the sales team will be pleased to offer advice in a relaxed, no pressure environment.

They are also able to advise and arrange any required adaptations to your new car before delivery.

St Georges Motability Care does not stop at sale time and the same understanding is available in the service department, where unlike many others the customer service advisers, we make sure auto and manual courtesy cars are available, together with a while-you-wait service for simple jobs.

Alternatively the dealership will collect and deliver the car for you, with the same exemplary service available to Volkswagen drivers.

As the east Kent Chevrolet main dealer, the sales department continues to have a wide range of new and used Chevrolet vehicles with finance packages available.

All used vehicles have a multi-point check and a 12[month warranty. All repairs can be carried out, from warranty repairs to service and standard repairs as well as MOT testing.

you'll pay less
for a superb Brand New car at St Georges when you can
Save up to £1270



New Matiz S 5dr
Our Price Only
£4995
Save £1270
See how we can lower YOUR motoring costs
Road Fund Licence FROM ONLY £35
Fuel Costs Reduced WITH UP TO 67 MPG
Big Savings AGAINST MRP
Chevrolet range fuel consumption in mpg (L/100 km), urban 40.9 (6.9) to 26.4 (10.7), extra urban 67.3 (4.2) to 38.7 (7.3), combined 54.3 (5.2) to 32.8 (8.6) the official co2 emission is 119 to 225 g/km.
St Georges
St. Georges Garage, 8-12 Harold Street, Cliftonville, Margate. Kent CT9 2HT
Telephone: 01843 230300
usedcars@stgeorgesgarage.co.uk www.stgeorgesgarage.co.uk
Motability
GET REAL
CHEVROLET

BUSINESS review 2008

Nasons

Passing all our savings onto all our customers

Family run department store, Nasons, is the perfect one-stop shop. Located in the heart of Canterbury, the store was established in 1929 by Fred Nason and it remains in the family today with Andrew Nason as joint managing director.

In 1962 the company moved to its High Street position, where it has become a landmark in the city.

Its growing reputation for quality furniture and good customer services led it to outgrow the store and further space was needed, and bought, and it now boasts a 35,000 sq ft retail space.

In 1987 further expansion took place when the firm moved part of its product empire to a new store on the Wincheap estate on edge of Canterbury. An extensive selection of carpets were introduced alongside the furniture. This freed up the High Street store for more product ranges and it stocks ranges from G Plan Upholstery, Ekornes, Lazyboy and Vale Upholstery. Soon after a menswear and ladies' fashion and shoe department emerged.

Bedroom furniture is also displayed at the High Street store along with china, gifts, cookware, lighting, lingerie, linens, nets, soft furnishings, tiles, toys and Royal Doulton.

The new 'home floor' has developed over the last year with the cookware department blending into the giftware department which has meant common merchandise such as kitchen, electrical, glass, tablemats and china can be matched with the traditional items. In addition the linen department now offers aprons, tea towels and table cloths, which match the other ranges.

Nasons are members of Associated Independent Stores (AIS) the largest independent voluntary buying group of its kind in the UK with a combined membership of over £1.6bn. Nick Betts joint managing director confirms that by being part of this association Nasons continues to be able to provide our customers with a wider range and fantastic money saving offers.









WINTER SALE

starts 9.00am 27th December in both stores

NASONS



Nasons Department Store,
47 High Street,
Canterbury, CT1 2SB
Tel: 01227 456755
www.nasons.co.uk



Nasons Furniture, Carpet and
Bed Centre, Maynard Road,
Wincheap Estate, Canterbury
Tel: 01227 463550
www.nasons.co.uk

BUSINESS review 2008

Ashford International and Bridgewood Manor

Form an orderly Q for popular hotels

Kent's Bridgewood Manor and Ashford International hotels have recently become the focus of attention in the county.

Both properties are owned by QHotels, a collection of 21 hotels which emphasise the unique, one-of-a-kind experience for its guests. QHotels have filled a niche in the market by providing 21 carefully nurtured and individual properties, each with a reputation for excellent service.

The group was this year awarded the prestigious AA Hotel Group of the Year for 2008-09, demonstrating QHotels' commitment to raising industry standards as well as enhancing their guest and diner experiences. Not only has the award had a positive effect on Bridgewood Manor and Ashford International, but so has £150m investment across the portfolio, of which £60m was spent this year.

The £10m renovation of the four star Ashford International has brought a contemporary feel to all 179 guest bedrooms, completely refurbished the Kent and Canterbury Suites, introduced four new meeting rooms and redeveloped and relocated the new brassiere-style Horizon restaurant and wine bar, including a new terrace for alfresco dining.

Quench Bar offers Costa Coffee by day and a vibrant sports bar by night. Reflections – Health, Fitness and Spa have also been completely rebuilt to facilitate a 20 metre swimming pool, complete with six treatment rooms and a tranquil relaxation lounge. This refurbishment ensures Ashford International retains its reputation as one of the best hotels in Kent, and at the forefront for business and leisure guests.

With the QHotels' mantra of investing not only financially in a series of refurbishment programmes, but also in a first-class team of individuals, both Ashford International and Bridgewood Manor boast a one of a kind customer service experience.

Bridgewood Manor, famous in the area for its 100 bedrooms, Squires Restaurant and wedding facilities, has appointed Simon Barker as general manager of the hotel. Simon has had a positive impact on the property and has also boosted its standing in Kent.

Being under the wing of QHotels has allowed Ashford International and Bridgewood Manor to develop as two of the region's most popular hotels. With over 30,000 guests walking through the doors this year, 2009 looks set to be another award winning 12 months.









A multi-million outlay on refurbishment work saw the year end with a presitigious award presented to QHotels

876 business deals done
600 delegates catered for
30 sanctuaries for big thinkers
4 stars for outstanding service
One of a kind





2 cracking conference venues from the AA Hotel Group of the Year

RECEIVE £50 OF M&S VOUCHERS on all new bookings of 25 delegates or more - quote BSS08

The qualities that made us AA Hotel Group of the Year will make your conference at the Ashford International or Bridgewood Manor a resounding success – class, style, professionalism and four-star service.

- Up to 400 delegates at the Ashford International Hotel and 200 delegates at Bridgewood Manor
- State-of-the-art facilities and expert help

£30 – Day Delegate
£119 – 24 hour (inc. accommodation)
Dinner from only £15

Call 01233 219988 or email
ashfordevents@QHotels.co.uk
Ashford International Hotel
Ashford, Kent

Call 01634 201333 or email
bridgewoodmanorevents@QHotels.co.uk
Bridgewood Manor
Chatham, Kent

www.QHotels.co.uk

*Conference or event must be confirmed between 1st December 2008 and 31st January 2009. Offer is subject to availability.
Vouchers will be distributed once a new event has been confirmed. Only the conference or event booker is entitled to receive the vouchers. No alternatives are available.

QHOTELS
AA Hotel Group of the Year 2008 - 2009

BUSINESS review 2008

AH Creative

Meeting the marketing challenge

The advertising industry is well represented throughout Kent and the geographical position of Ashford has proved to be the ideal location choice for AH Creative Limited to set up shop.

As a full-service advertising and design agency, AHC has steadily built a portfolio of 'blue chip' national and regional clients, combining collective experience and skills gained from the London agency scene and successfully applying these to regional marketing briefs across a diversity of business sectors which includes local authorities, fast-moving consumer goods and the travel/leisure markets.

Despite the current financial downturn, which has prompted a general cut in advertising and marketing budgets across a wide sector of businesses, AHC has maintained a steady increase in business. This is primarily attributed to existing client 'word of mouth' recommendation and the multi-media groups with whom AHC have developed sound working relationships

Of course, AHC understand that to sustain both existing and new business requires high levels of professional support. The AHC marketing and design team do just that, a unique fusion of senior marketing expertise and youthful creativity combining to produce 'eye-catching answers that really work for our clients'.

AH Creative set out with an unshakable philosophy; 'research the market and develop a marketing strategy that forms the foundation on which to build and position a successful and creative campaign'. A philosophy AHC firmly believes should be applied to every marketing challenge, irrespective of size or spend.

In recent months AHC has made considerable financial investment in upgrading its existing AppleMac design studio with the latest 'cutting edge' equipment and software, together with full colour digital printing facilities.

The investment provides greater flexibility and creative design output in the production of brochures and associated literature for clients with limited financial resources.

Looking to the future, AHC will be looking to extend its current creative and marketing teams, offering fresh and innovative support for lower and medium marketing spend businesses in the county.

See www.ah-creative.co.uk for more information.



Alan Hulyer, the managing director AH Creative Limited

WE DON'T WORK FOR THESE

But you'd be pleasently surprised to learn just how much we do charge to come up with innovative and eyecatching creative design. We've gone a long way to dismiss the old chestnut, if you want top of the tree ideas, you pay top of the tree prices.



A simple business card or a full on marketing campaign, it makes sense to talk to us and we won't drive you nuts over the cost.

ah CREATIVE

15 north street ashford kent TN24 8LF
t: 01233 650888 e: info@ah-creative.co.uk
www.ah-creative.co.uk

BUSINESS review 2008

Townsend Montessori Nurseries

Our mission to prepare children for their later life

TOWNSEND Montessori Nurseries opened its first nursery group two years ago to help prepare children for later life.

Based in the grounds of Port Regis in Broadstairs, the scheme moved from strength to strength using the Montessori method of teaching and since its launch two more nurseries have recently been opened; The Avenues in Palm Bay and The Grange Montessori in Ramsgate.

Managing director Phillippa Townsend introduced the Montessori method into the groups which helps support children in developing their independence through a wide range of carefully selected activities.

These include yoga, football, dance and singing with the piano, which are all taught by professionals.

Qualified and experienced staff are on hand to provide care for the children and the teaching of numbers and sounds is done on a one-to-one basis so every child can develop at their own pace.

Children aged from three months up to five years-old can benefit from the scheme and can take part in full day sessions which include a cooked lunch.

The grounds of Port Regis create an ideal setting for Montessori teaching with 17 acres of park and woodland.

Maria Montessori, who created the alternative education method in the late 19th century and early 20th century, believed children should be in touch with the outside world.

The large, bright classrooms also offer an ideal environment for its pupils.

The nursery in Palm Bay was completely redesigned before it opened last December to make a fantastic place for children to play and the Ramsgate nursery, a former doctor's surgery, has also been refurbished to the highest standard.

Every room is bright and airy and it also benefits from off-street parking and a large play area.

The company prides itself on offering excellent quality childcare in a beautiful environment with a team of dedicated and caring staff who treat every child with the care they deserve.

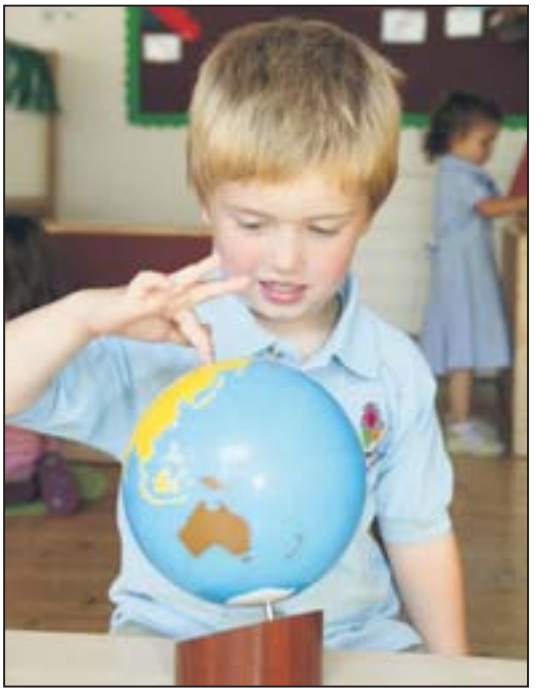
Primary school teachers have said how well prepared for school the children are.

Its opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am-6pm.

Contact Port Regis Montessori, Convent Road, Broadstairs CT10 3PR, 01843 600400, or The Avenues Montessori, 406 Northdown Road, Palm Bay, Margate CT9 3PG, 01843 221155, or The Grange Montessori, Westcliff Road, Ramsgate CT11 9LJ, 01843 588840. To book a viewing visit www.tmnurseries.com.







More than just childcare.
Happiness



Nurseries
Ramsgate . Broadstairs . Margate
- Qualified and experienced staff
- Cooked meals
- Variety of sessions available
- Funding available for 3 & 4's
- More than just childcare

visit www.tmnurseries.com

BabyRoom ‹ ToddlersRoom ‹ 2's ClassRoom ‹ 3&4 ClassRoom ‹

Find out about our nurseries in Ramsgate . Broadstairs and Margate visit tmnurseries.com

TownsendMontessori nurseries

The Grange Nursery
Ramsgate | t 01843 588840

The Port Regis Nursery
Broadstairs | t 01843 600444

The Avenues Nursery
Margate | t 01843 221155

Children aged from 3 Months to 5 Years ‹
Open between 8am and 6pm ‹
Head Office 01843 600 444 ‹
We use the Montessori method ‹

More than just childcare
www.tmnurseries.com

GRANGE NOW OPEN

"The baby unit is very calm; consequently babies are settled and happy. The environment reflects natural materials." OFSTED

"Children move around the setting freely and safely because practitioners have organised the setting to help meet their needs." OFSTED

"Babies clearly enjoy and sway to the soft music which plays in the background as they explore their environment." OFSTED

BUSINESS review 2008

Basepoint

Office space comes with no headaches

NOT only has Basepoint itself enjoyed extended growth since launching in 1994 – it has helped other businesses grow too by providing well equipped and keenly priced office and workshop space.

The company aims to provide a headache-free accommodation option for small and medium sized businesses.

Centre manager Lorraine Grover said: "Good quality business accommodation was seen as a real need for small to medium sized businesses.

"Our flexible easy-in, easy-out inclusive approach has assisted companies to set up their business without a big commitment. They are able to operate their business without the headache of day-to-day management of the building they are working in. All communication – telephones and internet are dealt with by Basepoint as well."

In addition to communications solutions, Basepoint tenants also enjoy an on-site café, meeting rooms, free car parking, photocopying and the protection of CCTV.

Basepoint has centres across the country, with a Kent base at Shearway Business Park.

A Basepoint centre comprises up to 100 small business units which are a mixture of offices and workshops, all let on rolling two-week licences at inclusive licence fees. The Folkestone Enterprise Centre has 74 units, of which 25 are for workshop use.

Since the first centre was built in Romsey in 1994, Basepoint has expanded to a portfolio of 21 managed business innovation and enterprise centres and are on site at four other locations which will be complete in 2009.

It was originally owned by investors, however, the company grew so fast that it was floated as a PLC company eight years ago to raise capital. ACT, the major shareholder, bought back all the shares in 2005, delisted Basepoint and took full control.

Talking about the company's success, Mrs Grover said: "Our friendly approach to our customers has assisted us in the success of our business.

"The main element is our flexible two-week rolling licence. Along with our professional, well maintained centres our tenants know any reported problems with the centre are dealt with swiftly."

Basepoint's Kent home is Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Business Park, Folkestone CT19 4RH.

Call 01303 298298, email folkestone@basepoint.co.uk or visit www.basepoint.co.uk

BASEPOINT
business centres





Basepoint Folkestone helps...



...cure those credit crunch headaches

No matter what happens out there, Basepoint has the solution. High-quality accommodation. First-rate facilities. Affordable terms. Great staff. Basepoint is the perfect place to secure success. But don't just take our word for it - come and see for yourself.

For instant crunch relief just call 0800 634 1074 - or visit our website basepoint.co.uk/folkestone

BASEPOINT
business centres

be a part of our community basepoint.co.uk

BUSINESS review 2008

G Flooring

Personal touch is our touchstone

G Flooring has built up a loyal client base by focusing on flexibility and the personal touch.

The Margate-based carpets and flooring firm has carved out a successful business by offering services its larger rivals cannot compete with.

Manager Greg Brand said: "Our managing director realised about two years ago that it was proving difficult to find a flooring business other than one of the national chains of carpet companies to provide his original company with flooring solutions.

"Although the large companies were reliable, they lacked flexibility and the personal touch, so after finding and carrying out an extensive refurbishment to a large industrial unit G Flooring was born.

"We've avoided unrealistically rapid expansion, concentrating on repeat business and building a happy client base using the old fashioned ethos – the customer is always right and by remembering this is how to get word-of-mouth recommendation and achieve sustainable growth.

"We intend to continue our steady growth based on sound business decision and the loyalty of our clients."

G Flooring Ltd stocks an exceptional range of carpets including 80/20 wool and all the modern hard-wearing man-made carpets.

The company specialises in both solid wood and engineered (veneered) wood flooring.

Having attained the prestigious ISO 9001 certificate, the firm has been able to attain contracts with large companies such as Tetley Tea.

However, Mr Brand said its focus remained largely on the residential market.

He said: "While we attract large commercial projects all over south east England we feel the residential market is important and prospective customers looking for quality and reliability should consider us for superior customer care and keen pricing."

G Flooring offers free home visits and quotations in an effort to inform and advise would-be clients.

The company also retails truly room-sized remnants at an incredible £45 inclusive of VAT regardless of size and can deliver and fit in short lead times.

Opening hours run from 8am-5.30pm, Monday to Friday.

G Flooring is located on the Westwood Industrial Estate.

For more information call 01843 222717, visit www.gflooringltd.co.uk, or email info@gflooringltd.co.uk









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Margate, Kent, CT9 4JS

ISO 14001 REGISTERED FIRM
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BUSINESS review 2008

Furniture World of Hythe

Product knowledge and customer care a given

FURNITURE WORLD is a family-owned business which started in 1910, and moved to Hythe in 1995.

The owners, Castons, have been furniture retailers for the past 70 years, originating in London with an additional store in Crawley.

They sell furniture from suppliers such as Silentnight, Sherborne, Alstons, Cintique, Harrison, Health Beds and Vale plus many others offering a wide range of upholstery, beds and bedroom/dining ranges.

There is free delivery for all items, and they believe in traditional customer care, service and value for money.

Mike Nock, who has been in furniture retail for more than 25 years, knows his stuff, and it shows.

Mike puts his success down to experience, vast product knowledge and good old-fashioned service.

Mike explained that many customers visit the store time and time again.

The extensive customer base covers areas up to and including Tenterden, Canterbury and Dover with free delivery for those within a 50-mile radius.

The van delivery crew offer a friendly and professional service, carrying in and setting up items as well as disposing of any packaging materials and old goods.

The large ground and first-floor showroom has more than 30 suites on display and includes a large bed section.

Catering for all budgets, beds are priced from £90-1,000 while sofas are priced between £700-5,000.

"We aim to build on our reputation and quality of service for the coming year, by continuing to supply all customers old and new with quality value for money furniture and enviable customer service and care," says Mike. For more information call 01303 239239.









All Stock Items Guaranteed Free Delivery Before Christmas

Supplying Quality Furniture
in Hythe for over 10 years
Traditional or Contemporary







Sherborne Cintique Vale Alstons sofas & sofabeds WADE FURNITURE LIMITED HARRISON

Family Owned. EST 1910

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64/68 High Street, Hythe.
01303 239239

ALDI CAR PARK
Bank Street
We Are Here
Hythe High St

BUSINESS review 2008

Quex Park

Future plans to preserve museum's African collection







Quex Barn farmers' market, left; Quex House Museum and gardens, centre; Jungle Jim's Playbarn, right; and the Secret Garden Plant Nursery, below

Quex Park Country Estate traditionally derived its income from farming and property. However, unlike many country estates Quex Park has a museum of world renown at its centre!

At the turn of the 20th century Quex's visionary owner, the explorer Percy Powell-Cotton transformed his home into a world centre for African studies and a celebratory museum of African life in all its forms.

At the beginning of the 21st century another transformation is underway.

With farm incomes in decline across Europe a new direction had to be found to sustain the estate an still support the museum at its heart.

Through a diversification programme redundant buildings have been transformed into vibrant businesses attracting a new audience to an established location.

In this decade it has:

- Converted old cattle buildings into a **children's indoor play centre.** Adjacent to this is a **craft village** where all items are made on site.
- Restored the Walled Garden back into a **plant-raising nursery and garden centre**. A centre of excellence for expert and beginner alike.
- Converted an old potato seed store and grain barn into an **equestrian livery**. This provides exclusive and safe riding.
- Converted a 19th century barn into a **farm shop, including a butchery, fresh fish counter, farmers' market and café**, specialising in produce from the estate or other local growers.
- **Restored historic buildings** into office accommodation, supplying quality offices for diverse local business.
- Converted an old tractor shed into **the Antoinette Centre where the Trust for Thanet Archaeology** is now based.
- Worked with organisers of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and **planted over five kilometres of new hedgerow in partnership with local schools**.

Recently the museum has also become licensed as a stunning venue for weddings and corporate functions.

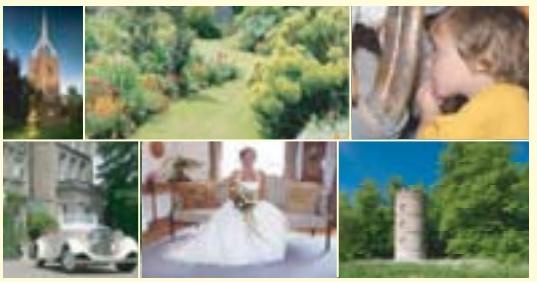
Quex also now hosts many popular outdoor events and with its own internal attractions is now one of the most popular visitor attractions in east Kent.

Farming is also resurgent in a new guise and as well as running a thriving contract farming enterprise,

Quex Park is currently pressing its own rapeseed and sunflowers into high quality health oils for sale in shops and restaurants. They can be found in the farm shop on the estate and provide a tasty reminder of your day at Quex Park.

Please email any questions to enquiries.quexpark@btconnect.com.







Quax Park
Birchington
Kent
CT7 0BH
www.quexpark.co.uk
01843 841119

Did you know....

- We have the most important museum of it's type in the world on site
- We are a perfect wedding venue, with a 100 seater function restaurant
- We can be host to your corporate events
- 170,000 people visit us every year
- We have a specialist local plant nursery
- We have a large childrens indoor soft play centre
- We have a craft village, who's products are made & sold on site
- We have a farmer's market & farm shop with hayloft cafe, where you can buy your meat straight from the farm

.... Quex Park is a great day out!!

BUSINESS review 2008

Buss Murton

Historic firm not afraid to move with the times

NOT many companies can boast a history spanning nearly 300 years, but Buss Murton Solicitors has been offering legal advice to businesses and personal clients since 1713.

The law firm has been based in the Weald since an attorney at law opened his practice in Cranbrook which was then a thriving town and the centre of the local wool industry. This was back when the now thriving town of Tunbridge Wells was a mere village, based around the Pantilles and its spring water.

During the latter part of the 18th century, Tunbridge Wells expanded rapidly and in 1797, a Tunbridge Wells office was opened, eventually being run by Thomas Buss who in 1888 merged with the Cranbrook office then run by Charles Murton, laying the foundations for the modern day firm.

The firm prospered slowly for the next 60 years and then expanded rapidly in the 1950s, becoming a major provider of private client legal services in west Kent.

The firm now offers comprehensive legal advice on all personal and business matters, and despite its long history, is not afraid to move with the times, and react to a changing legal landscape.

Chief executive Stuart Burnop said: "The most recent developments in the firm have mirrored the way the market for legal services has changed.

"This has included concentrating services in a smaller number of branches through the efficient use of technology, and the rapid expansion of the provision of commercial legal services throughout Kent, London and the South East."

It is this ability to embrace change that Mr Burnop says is the secret to the firm's success and longevity.

Although it also provides personal legal services, Buss Murton LLP is enjoying particular success in several areas of commercial law including commercial property, employment, company formations, mergers and acquisitions.

They offer a personal touch with solicitors and legal executives are happy to visit clients in their homes or offices.

The Head Office and Commercial Law Centre is based at Wellington Gate, 7-9 Church Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1HT, and the phone number is 01892 510222.

The firm also has offices at 31 High Street, Cranbrook TN17 3EE, tel: 01580 712215, and Crown House, Home Gardens, Dartford DA1 1DZ, tel: 01322 220235. All offices are open from Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6pm.

Email buss@bussmurton.co.uk or visit www.bussmurton.co.uk for more details.





Senior partner Alan Williams is helping to make sure Buss Murton Solicitors stay true to the firm's roots

Growing businesses need a growing business



We have something in common. Like you, we are growing. As you grow your business, you'll want your advisors to understand your strategy, not simply to react when prompted. And to rely on a pair of safe hands.

Our clients view us as an integral part of their operation. There to help whenever required on all aspects of company law, not just when there's a crisis.

Our commercial team, with extensive hands-on business experience, now operates throughout Kent from offices in Tunbridge Wells and Dartford.

Alan Williams, our Senior Partner, would be happy to hear from you. Give him a call on +44 (0) 1892 502340 to see how we can help you grow your business.

Buss Murton LLP
SOLICITORS

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Wellington Gate, 7-9 Church Road
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1HT
Telephone: 01892 510222

THAMES GATEWAY
Crown House, Home Gardens
Dartford, Kent DA1 1DZ
Telephone: 01322 220235

www.bussmurton.co.uk

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Buss Murton LLP is a Limited Liability Partnership No. OC301808 and is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

BUSINESS review 2008

Westleyhire

Plant hire firm digs deep for all its customers

Westleyhire started in 1988 when Steve Westley found a yard with cheap rent.

A friend was already running a successful plant hire firm in Sittingbourne and Steve's late father had wanted him to open one up too.

He started Westleyhire with a few tools and one old mini digger, but he won customers over because he was keen and never said no, working all hours to keep machinery running.

As the firm grew Steve took on a Scot called Gary who taught him the value of good hard working staff.

After more than 15 years at Dolphin Street, Herne Bay, they moved to Boarded House Farm with a custom-built office and more parking. The firm has over 14 people and has grown to tackle civil engineering, Diamond drilling and plant hire.

Westleyhire has been running for 20 years as a hire firm and the name Westley has been in the business since Steve's parents set up in Herne Bay more than 45 years ago.

The company can supply mini-diggers, dumpers and compaction equipment with or without operators. We are civil engineers and work on pavements and sewer connections.

Our ability to work on drains and do part of a job or a whole job to competition puts us at a great advantage.

We can also provide a crane truck to deliver plant and 20ft containers for a safe site storage and used for lifting mini diggers over garden walls and on rooftops.

We have a grab truck to supply aggregates and take muck away.

We have a fleet of portable toilets, we also do Diamond drilling work, which enables us to cut holes in reinforced concrete from 8-650mm. We recently added a Diamond chainsaw, which can cut reinforced concrete up to two foot deep.

Westleyhire was the first firm in the area to use a grab lorry. This vehicle can take away more than two six-yard skips of soil and hardcore, is cheaper than two skips, and Keith can load in under 10 minutes.

Steve said: "We pride ourselves on being a family business and we can adapt to our customer's position very quickly, eg, if a customer hires an electric braker and returns within the hour or so and says he would like a larger unit we can help and would only charge for one hire.

"At Westleyhire we listen to our customers and solve their problems and if we can't help we would rather recommend someone we know rather than send them away empty handed.

"We have worked for large clients such as Vodafone and Fujitsu and gone as far as Brussels with Diamond drilling but we have not forgotten were we came from and still give the man in the street the respect they deserve."

Westleyhire, Boarded House Farm, Herne Common, Canterbury Road, Herne Bay CT6 7LG, call 01227 740455, 01227 201661, fax 01227 712917, or email steve@westleyhire.co.uk.











ALL NEW BLOCK DRIVE'S NEED TO BE PERMABLE

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

If you are planning on having a new block drive you will either need planning permission or your new block drive will need to be permeable

Permeable means that the water collected on top of your drive will drain away naturally.

Your drive will consist of four layers

1: Blocks
2: Sand
3: Membrane sheet
4: Type 2 material (angular stone)

FOR FURTHER INFOMATION OR A QUOTE PLEASE CONTACT

WESTLEYHIRE 01227-740455

BUSINESS review 2008

Autokwik and Commercial Tyres







"Customer service is not rocket science," says Paul Kuske, whose business now boasts an impressive fleet of vehicles

Tyre firm's 'can do' customer service

Autokwik and Commercial Tyres owner Paul Kuske never wanted to go into the tyre industry, and had a childhood ambition to be a rocket scientist.

Now he is proving customer service isn't rocket science and Paul continues to challenge the traditional methods of the wheel and tyre logistics industry.

He founded his business in 1977 after borrowing just £100: "Like a lot of kids, I dreamed of an exotic career," he said. "But instead, was told by my dad not to be silly, and get to work helping him running his tyre retreading business. After my father sold out, the new company had a fire, and I was made redundant, so at 20 years old I bought a beat up old van – it was always breaking down – I then borrowed £50,000 from a finance company, (equivalent of £500,000 now) and started my own tyre repair and retreading company."

From those humble beginnings, he has built a tyre business centred on four sites – Ashford, Aylesford (Maidstone), Dartford and Crawley – able to reach across the South East from East Anglia to Hampshire.

The company has two brands and faces so its 26-strong fleet of immaculately presented Mercedes Sprinter vans have 'AutoKwik' on one side and 'Commercial Tyres' on the other.

The latter looks after 80 per cent of the company business and offers, as the name suggests, a total solution to tyre management for commercial vehicles, from vans to monster earthmoving and quarrying trucks.

"We have just upgraded our ability to handle the biggest heavy plant vehicles by buying a 26-tonne truck with a 38-tonne crane," said Paul, who has underlined the awesome capability of this monster with a personalised plate: TYR1E.

This newcomer also typifies the 'can do' attitude of Paul's company, which has grown in defiance of big name nationwide rivals by accepting no compromises.

It was his exasperation at how a 'fast-fit' outlet handled the fitting of a new tyre to his own car that inspired Autokwik as a consumer partner for Commercial Tyres:

"I thought 'How come Michael Schumacher has his tyres changed in seconds, while I have to wait hours? There has to be a better way."

So he set up stand-alone Autokwik wheel tyre operations at his depots, offering the extra creature comforts that car, 4x4 and independent van drivers demand, as well as add-ons such as servicing and MOT tests – with annual reminders – replacement batteries and shock absorbers as well as the option of mobile tyre services.

"It would be easier to grow the business by contracting out work," said Paul, "but the sub-contractor does not always give customer service the priority that we do".

"We might not always be the cheapest, but we pride ourselves on speed, efficiency, reliability and satisfaction. Consequently, we have little staff or customer turnover. In some ways, I wish some commercial customers were lured away by promises of a better deal, because I can be confident they will come back."

One of the company's major customer pleasers was its 'total tyre management' solution in which operators pay a regular fee and Commercial Tyres retains the ownership – and headache – of managing the wheels and tyres, any punctures, retreading or regrooving and can also help the operator better manage ever-increasing fuel overheads.

"Some people in this industry think it is slow to change, " argues Paul. "But we have grown by looking for better ways to do things and tyre technology has an increasing effect on commercial vehicle operation.

"The operator of a large truck has probably seen his fuel costs jump from £40,000 to £60,000 a year in recent times. If our tyres can save 10 per cent or more of that and our prompt service avoids lengthy downtime, then we can make a dramatic effect on that truck's profitability – multiply that across a fleet and we are talking about a huge amount.

"And we will keep driving to do more," he pledged.

01233 668638 Ellingham Industrial Estate, Ashford
01622 717285 Forstal Road, Aylesford, Maidstone
01293 565546 Gatwick Road, Crawley
01322 273031 Thames Rd, Crayford, Dartford

Commercial Tyres
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- 24hr breakdown
- total tyre management
- laser alignment
- re-cutting
- competitive prices
- professional advice

www.commercialtyres.com



BUSINESS review 2008

Wildlife Heritage Foundation

Big cat experience on your doorstep

The Wildlife Heritage Foundation based at Marley Farm in Smarden near Ashford is home to around 30 endangered wild cats.

These include 10 tigers, six leopards and three lions as wells as pumas, cheetahs and a serval.

It is part of a European wide programme to protect rare and endangered species and to provide financial support for field conservation projects which assist these magnificent animals and the habitats they live in.

Apart from normal charity fund raising, WHF runs three special 'cat experiences'.

The Wild Enigma Photographic Safaris bring together photographers of all experience levels and allows them to get close to the cats offering some of the best opportunities for wildlife pictures in the UK.

A ranger day enables visitors to work alongside the animals caring for them and feeding them and just spending some time with them.

A big cat encounter is a one-on-one tour of the site with a chance to meet the cats and learn about their needs both in the collection and out in the wild.

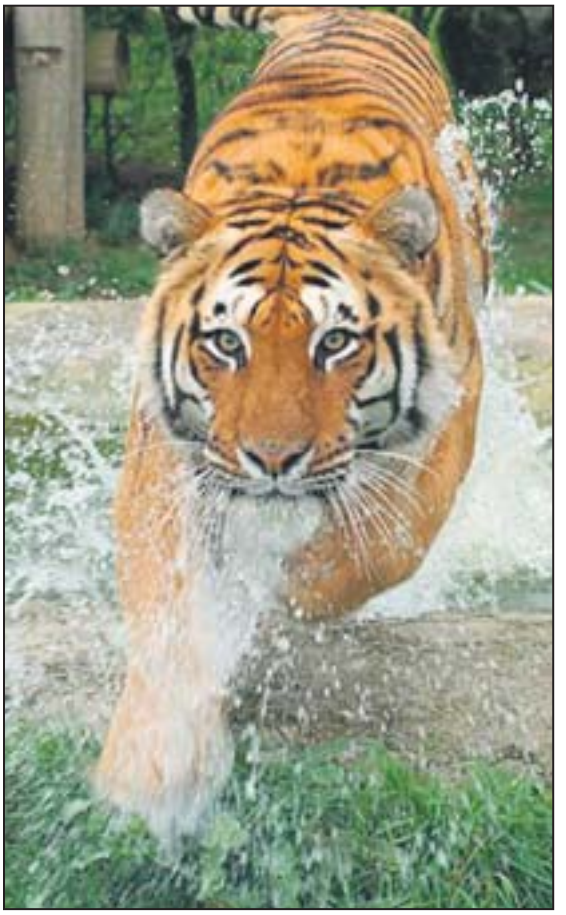
It even includes the chance to hand feed some of the animals and has grown in recent years because of its partnership with Virgin Experience Days – which sells its adventures in many UK retail outlets.

This year was an important one for the charity as it has seen the birth of Sumatran tiger cubs – a species that is down to about 200 in the wild.

The two male cubs will eventually be moved to other centres in order to build an insurance policy against the day the species becomes extinct – which it unfortunately will if the island jungle habitat they live in is destroyed as looks increasingly likely.

The WHF has a whole ethos when it comes to customers – to ensure all visitors are made to feel they are special and all visits are based around maximising the pleasure gained from experiencing the animals at close quarters.

The centre is open Friday through to Sunday from November to February and every day of the rest of the year except Monday to pre-booked individuals and groups.





THE MAGIC OF BEING CLOSE TO BIG CATS







Wildlife HERITAGE FOUNDATION

...protection is our passion

Wildlife Heritage Foundation
Headcorn Road, Smarden
Ashford TN27 8PJ Tel: 01233 771915
Website: www.whf.org.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1104420

BUSINESS review 2008

Headley Brothers (Digital)





headleybrothers DIGITAL CUSTOMISED PRINT & MARKETING

Digital solutions for print needs

Established in 1881 and traditionally a company specialising in print, finishing and fulfilment for the short to medium-run magazine market, Headley Brothers decided to launch its digital operation in September, 2004, in order to increase the range of services offered to its clients.

Headley Brothers (Digital) Ltd is comprised of a small, experienced team of digital printing specialists, providing a highly personal, professional and flexible service. Our advanced digital printing technology enables us to offer high quality digital printing at competitive prices, with a fast turn-around. There is no minimum print run, so you can print the quantity you need when you need it, keeping costs down and printed materials current.

Through Headway, our online print procurement system, we offer an admin-light and efficient web-to-print solution. Using Headway is simple; a customer is able to upload templates of documents that are often reprinted, such as business cards, stationery and brochures. The user is then able to log-in via a remote internet access and select the product they wish to have printed. The user can receive a quote, proof, pay and track their order; all with a few clicks of a button!

Headley Brothers Digital can also bring your printed material to life with our customisation service. By processing your customer data through the variable data software system that links directly to our digital press, text, images and graphics can be customised and targeted specifically to each of your clients. Customisation doesn't just have to involve putting an individual's name on a product; depending on how much you know about your clients, your literature can be customised for every individual in a variety of ways – involving their favourite colour, their interests, or information targeted specifically to their line of work. A recipient's name can be embedded within an image, for example written in the sky, in fireworks, or in sand; using one of our extensive collection of library images or created with an image supplied by you. The beauty of bespoke digital print is that you can print customised marketing material, with a seemingly unlimited number of variables, quickly, easily, cost-effectively, and with high-quality results.

Will Inshaw, digital manager for Headley Brothers Digital, says: "What sets us apart is our capacity to offer complete, added-value solutions to our clients.

"We offer static and customised digital print services and an efficient web-to-print system that enables the quick and easy ordering and purchase of printed goods online.

"In addition we provide design and web design services, and with the support of Headley Brothers Ltd can provide the complete finishing, fulfilment and mailing solution, all from the same Ashford-based site.

"Our ethos is simple: we value our customers and take pride in our work. Customers feel confident in knowing that what we say we are going to do, we do."

So, if you want to order business cards, stationery and literature with ease and no minimum quantities, are planning a 10,000 run brochure but you need 50 for your board meeting tomorrow, or you want to execute a customised and highly targeted marketing campaign, then contact our friendly team today to see how Headley Brothers Digital Ltd can meet your needs.

Call 01233 623131, email will.inshaw@headley.co.uk or visit www.headley-digital.co.uk.



BUSINESS review 2008

Burgess Hodgson





Why we are here to help

BURGESS HODGSON
Chartered Accountants

The enigmatic English philosopher James Allen once wrote: "For true success, ask yourself these four questions: Why? Why not? Why not me? Why not now?"

If you don't have the answers to any or all of these questions, chances are your business is not as successful as it could be.

It's something that chartered accountant and business adviser Burgess Hodgson is only too aware of.

Given the current economic climate, and the effect this has had on business confidence, the Canterbury-based practice has found itself busier than ever helping clients keep their businesses as profitable as possible.

Burgess Hodgson has built a strong reputation for combining its high levels of expertise and experience with delivering practical financial solutions to a wide range of businesses, both in Kent and around the country.

It's a reputation that, last year, saw the firm short-listed for the prestigious Accountancy Age Awards medium firm of the year, an award that recognises the best practitioners nationwide.

Typically, for a firm not content to rest on its laurels, 2008 has seen Burgess Hodgson go from strength to strength, attracting a number of prestigious new clients. The fact that several of these businesses have approached the firm directly is a result of its continually improving reputation in the local business community.

It's a reputation founded on Burgess Hodgson's ability to continually provide the highest levels of customer service combined with steady growth. In the last 11 years, Burgess Hodgson has doubled the number of partners from five to 10, evidence of a successful business.

While each of these partners may have their own areas of responsibility, they pool expertise and complement skill sets to provide a well-rounded business capable of dealing with a huge range of business issues.

Some highlights and examples in 2008 of the evolutionary approach that defines Burgess Hodgson include the complete overhaul of the firm's website, moving to a sophisticated content management system that allows it to take greater ownership of our site and enables it to be proactive in terms of its content.

There has also been significant investment in terms of time and money in IT systems, including a VPN system which enables clients [and staff when working on clients' premises] to log on to a secure personalised version of the Burgess Hodgson system from anywhere in the world to view and store data on our server, giving quicker and more timely access to financial information.

Most recently, the firm has developed an intranet for the business enabling Burgess Hodgson to have greater communication with staff on a daily basis as well as proving a valuable resource.

Training is another cornerstone of the Burgess Hodgson business and will remain a key focus going forward. Last year, the firm qualified eight new ACAs; three have just taken their finals with another five starting their final courses in January.

It's all evidence of a business that continues to grow, both in reputation and size.

Burgess Hodgson has developed a reputation for providing forward thinking business advice. We already have the answers to James Allen's four questions – if you don't, then why not ring us on 01227 454627 and take the next step on the road to business success.

BURGESS HODGSON
Chartered Accountants

What is the definition of success?

Definitions can be misleading, particularly in business. One person's idea of success may not be the same as another's: it's all down to perspective.

At Burgess Hodgson, we understand that definitions can be limiting. Just because we are Chartered Accountants, doesn't mean we spend all day doing accounts.

In a changing economic climate, we're just as likely to be providing business advice and management consultancy, as we are ticking boxes on corporate accounts.

If you want an accountant who does more than the dictionary definition, call Richard Stewart or Kenton May on 01227 454627.

Burgess Hodgson: forward thinking business advice

Tel 01227 454627 • email info@burgesshodgson.co.uk • www.burgesshodgson.co.uk

BUSINESS review 2008

Herne Bay Mobility







Our job to aid your mobility

HERNE Bay Mobility Ltd is a family run business offering products to people who find it hard to get around.

Managing director David Aldridge set up the company six months ago in a small unit in Wealden Forest Park and after an influx of customers decided to move to larger premises on the same estate.

Mr Aldridge decided to set up Herne Bay Mobility to offer customers a better service, better prices and a more relaxed buying experience.

The company stocks several hundred products of popular daily living aids ranging from scooters, powerchairs and armchairs to bath-lifts, stairlifts, walkers and walking sticks.

Specialist products such as incontinence aids and custom-made recliner armchairs are also available.

Free demonstrations of any of the equipment can be shown in your own home without any pressure to buy.

Delivery of the goods is free and there is also a breakdown recovery service during opening hours, which is also free of charge.

Insurance and advice on any grants that may be available are given to the customer so they are fully aware of all their options.

The company has recently been appointed as supplier to a major tourist organisation who has already purchased several machines for customers to use while visiting their sites.

On top of this, the business has gained supply agreements with some of the biggest names in the industry who have decided Herne Bay Mobility is the ideal company to sell and service their products.

The store prides itself on keeping on top of the market, offering customers what they want and exceeding expectations – all at the right price.

Their best-selling product is the Shoprider Perrero which sells at £1,200 less than the recommended retail price, and the La-Z-Boy armchairs are selling out so fast the store has run out on several occasions.

The company has plans to expand but intends to keep the personal touch which keeps its customers coming back.

Opening hours are Monday to Saturday 9am-5pm.

Contact Herne Bay Mobility Ltd, Unit 3.1, Wealden Forest Park, Herne Common, Herne Bat CT6 7LQ. Telephone: 01227 710055 Email: hernebaymobility@mac.com Fax 01227 713147.

You can also visit our website at www.hernebaymobility.co.uk.



Christmas Gifts from Herne Bay Mobility

UNDER £10

Dycem Jar and Bottle Openers from **£2.99**

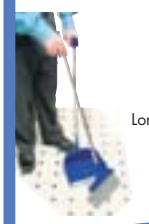
For the gardener, Peta angled and long handled tools from **£4.99**

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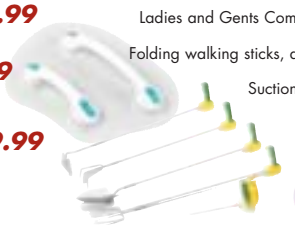


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BUSINESS review 2008

Kumon

Ensuring your child reaches their full potential

Every parent wants their child to enjoy school, achieve well and go on to lead a happy and successful life.

However, one of the ongoing issues at school is the struggle for teachers to make sure that all children are working at the right pace and level for them.

Some pupils are ready to move on faster than others.

Consequently, struggling children often get left behind and able children aren't stretched enough.

Consequently, many parents are looking beyond school for effective ways to ensure their child is working at a suitable level.

Kumon Educational, one of the leading supplementary education providers in the UK, offers maths and English after-school study programmes, designed to help children of all ages and abilities to fulfil their potential.

Kumon is designed to complement and enrich each child's education.

Programmes are tailored to individuals to ensure they progress at their optimal rate.

Struggling children are given the practice they need to learn the basics, but there are also many benefits for gifted students or those that just want to be challenged further.

Kumon removes the traditional parameters of the school curriculum, enabling these children to advance quickly, very often to a level beyond their school age group.

Studying on Kumon's advanced levels allows children not only to excel at maths or English in school but also frees up their time to dedicate to other subjects.

Kumon study equips children with essential self-learning skills, so that they feel comfortable at school and confident in their ability to tackle work across the entire school curriculum.

In previous years parents may not have thought to look outside of school for supplementary study.

But today, thousands of supportive parents see Kumon as an effective way to ensure their child reaches their full potential.

For further information about how Kumon may be able to help your child contact 0800 854 714 or visit www.kumon.co.uk.





Realise your **child's** potential

Maths and English After-School Programmes

Kumon can help your child progress with their maths and English studies, boost their confidence and help them shine.

Kumon programmes:

- work at a pace that is tailored to your child's needs
- develop invaluable study habits and concentration
- establish a solid foundation for academic success
- complement the school curriculum

Every day Kumon helps children of all ages and abilities to realise their true potential. With over 550 centres nationwide, it's convenient too. Contact your local Instructor today.

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BEARSTED
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Shain Bhoday
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Sue Peters
BIGGIN HILL
01689 880 497

Donna Wood
CHATHAM, WALDERSLADE
01634 682 760

Alison Martin-Clark
CRANBROOK
01580 712 216

Alison Harper
DARTFORD
01732 760 231

Gabriele Groeger-Wilson
FAVERSHAM
01795 886 097

Maki Bates
OTFORD
0208 333 9550

Meena Hansra
SIDCUP
0208 466 7970

Linda Johnson
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
01580 752 152

0800 854 714 kumon.co.uk

KUMON 50TH ANNIVERSARY

BUSINESS review 2008

JC Farley

Success built on customer care

JC Farley Ltd is a family run business which has been a continuing success story across Kent for 80 years – since the first store was opened in 1928.

Offering a huge range of furnishings for the home, the premises are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am-5.30pm, on Saturday from 9am-5pm and Sunday from 10am-4pm.

With its main shop in Chatham Street, Ramsgate, and another outlet in Wincheap, Canterbury, the company keeps ahead of the game by its management always ensuring they put more into the business than they take out.

A long-term approach to business ensures they will always be able compete in the marketplace with multi-nationals because of the care and attention to the needs of individual customers being of paramount concern.

Products which the company sells include upholstery, ranges of dining equipment and furniture, lighting, pictures, wall hangings, bedroom materials and mirrors.

Complete flooring services are also offered and a design and fittings service can be carried out.

All ranges have progressed along from the original single lock-up shop selling doormats and second-hand furniture in the early part of the 20th century.

Throughout the years new showrooms and warehouses have been added as the customer base grows and the company seeks to meet the expectations of customers, while always maintaining a sustainable pricing structure.

But the company's philosophy has never wavered – mere cheapness is never confused with value for money and a high level of service with the customer at the forefront is always maintained along with prices which reflect quality and emphasise value for money.

The huge numbers of 'discount' stores that have sprung up over the last decade and a half show what happens when a company has no clue as to how to provide continuing quality service.

These have left thousands of disappointed customers in their wake as they fold – a business practise completely at odds with that of JC Farley where quality and customer care matter above all.

JC Farley fully intends to be providing a quality service for the next 80 years.





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Tel: 01843 593069
www.farleysfurniture.co.uk

BUSINESS review 2008

Warners

We are your power to make changes you need

Warners was formed back in 1785 and has served the great and the good in Kent since that time. The business looks after private and corporate clients and has grown with more specialist solicitors to keep on top of changing legislative requirements.

Our people are effectively our expertise. Thankfully talented young lawyers vie for work experience with Warners and tend to stay when offered a post.

We have a special view of staff by comparison with others and enjoy excellent staff retention, which our clients appreciate.

This really helps us understand our clients' businesses and their needs in the long term. This makes us efficient and our service excellent value.

We have been trading 223 years to date and are committed to the community we serve by sponsoring sports, conservation, humanitarian, and arts activities in the county.

The key areas of law that we look after are:

1. Dispute resolution and litigation
2. Relationships, family and matrimonial
3. Residential property
4. Commercial property
5. Company commercial
6. Private client, wills, tax trust and probate
7. Employment from both employer and employee perspectives

Established clients have access to the teams at Warners as they need. New clients have their initial consultation either free of charge or at a greatly reduced rate dependant on the nature of the matter to be resolved. Our reception team is always happy to help and explain how we can assist.

Essentially we are a communications company whose communication revolves around interpreting points of law enabling resolution of issues for others.

There have made huge changes for the better with regard to efficiency over the years, from the typewriter to the word processor and beyond!

We have two offices at the moment spanning two populous regions, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks. Continuity and having a policy of only training and recruiting the best staff have helped us to remain successful and continue to grow.

Warners will continue to grow in a controlled manner by listening to our staff, referrers, and most of all our clients. Our service will evolve inline with legislation, business and the needs of the individual.

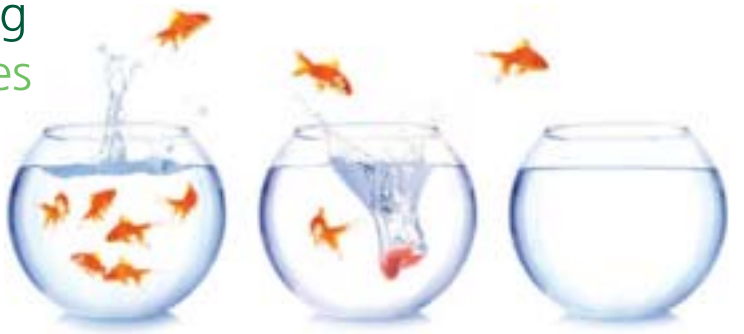
How can we help you?





Progress is easy with our team behind you

Its all about …
modern thinking
traditional values

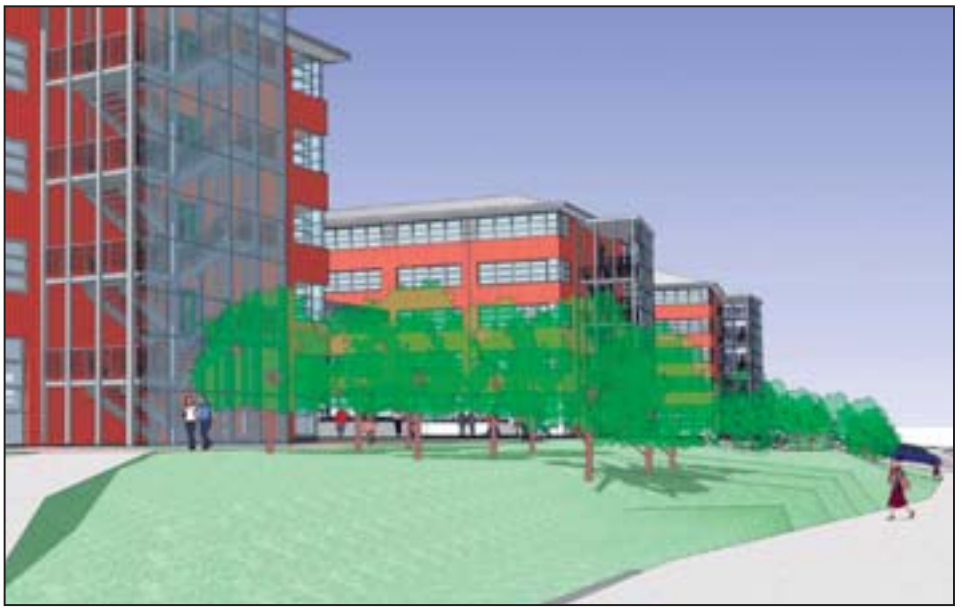


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BUSINESS review 2008

MidKent College







Serving students and community

MidKent College is one of Kent's largest suppliers of further education, delivering literally hundreds of courses from campuses in Maidstone and Medway.

Formerly the Medway College of Technology, MidKent was first opened in its current capacity by the Duke of Edinburgh in April, 1955.

Since then, it has formed an integral part of the communities it serves, benefiting not only the individual learners it trains, but also, just as importantly, the local industries they then go on to work within.

Next year looks set to be the most exciting in MidKent's 81-year history. In September, 2009, the college's Horsted and City Way sites will close their doors for a final time, making way for a brand new, state-of-the-art Medway Campus in Gillingham.

Couple this with exciting plans for a complete makeover of the college's Maidstone Campus at Oakwood Park, and it becomes clear that 2009 will be an extremely important year, both for MidKent College itself, and the communities it serves.

The new campus in Medway will have state-of-the-art training facilities in a wide range of subject areas, including: construction, engineering, hair and beauty, animal care, performing arts, and health care. It will also be able to accommodate almost 30 per cent more students than the college's existing sites in Chatham and Rochester.

The new campus is directly adjacent to the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME), with whom MidKent has agreed a 30-year, £680 million training contract.

The contract is the largest ever landed by a further education college, and will not only see MidKent delivering non-military training to Army soldiers serving at RSME's Brompton Barracks in Chatham, but will also secure the future of the Royal Engineers in Medway.

MidKent's principal, Stephen Grix, first joined the college in 1971, when, at age 15, he enrolled as a day-release bricklaying student at the Horsted site in Chatham.

He was recently offered a chance to reminisce on his time as a student when he joined colleagues in celebrating the achievements of the college's current learners. A Student Awards ceremony, held at the Priestfield Conference Centre at Gillingham FC, saw MidKent treat more than 300 guests to a three course sit-down meal. Winners were then presented with their awards by BBC South East's Caroline Feraday, who is also a former student of the college.

Both Stephen Grix and Caroline Feraday stand as shining examples of the phenomenal heights MidKent College students are capable of achieving.

The college firmly believes that anyone who enrols on one of its course is investing in an education that will provide them with the perfect balance between support and freedom, placing them in an environment in which they can grow in confidence and succeed.

COMING SOON 09.09
BRAND NEW
MEDWAY CAMPUS
PLUS EXCITING PLANS FOR A MAKEOVER AT OUR MAIDSTONE CAMPUS



01634 402020
www.midkent.ac.uk
MidKent College

BUSINESS review 2008

Advanced Lettings

Family values ensure the best service



Advanced Lettings is expanding even during the current financial difficulties, and a new office will be opening in Ashford in the New Year. Act now if you want to take advantage of their special offer

A WEALTH of experience has allowed Advanced Lettings to grow even in the face of the current crisis in the housing market.

The family company was started just over two years ago in Folkestone, but already plans to open a new agency in Ashford in January next year to be run by executive director Roy Fever.

The business was started by managing director Ken Simpson, who has nearly 20 years' experience in the lettings industry.

Also working hard to ensure Advanced Lettings' success is Mr Simpson's wife Nina, and his mother and father-in-law.

Mr Simpson says the family connections foster an understanding in the office which translates to customers, allowing a more personal approach.

He said: "The personal input and focus on tenants and landlords allows us to offer a first-class service.

"We have an unrivalled relationship with many of the leading estate agents and advise on potential rental incomes for them as well as constantly putting customer service at the top of our agenda."

An example of this is the high level of service tenants and landlords can expect from Advanced Lettings.

Mr Simpson said: "We offer a 24-hour call-out service for emergency maintenance issues for tenants ensuring that the property damage is minimised and thus keeping both parties happy.

"We also offer guaranteed rents and legal protection insurance, as well as specialised buildings and contents insurance so clients' property and income are fully protected."

And to celebrate the launch of the Ashford branch, the firm is even putting on a special offer.

Mr Simpson said: "We are currently offering an introductory rate for full management of five per cent plus VAT for all properties instructed with our Ashford branch before the January 31, 2009"

Advanced Lettings provides a full range of lettings services from tenant introduction through to full management.

They offer full protection insurance to both parties which gives peace of mind from day one, and use a professional referencing company.

They are also members of the UK Association of Lettings Agents (UKALA) which lays down a code of practice aiming to raise the standards and professionalism among lettings agents as well as protecting the interests of landlords and tenants.

The Folkestone branch is in the First Floor Suite, 103 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2BQ.

It is open from Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturdays from 9.30am to 3pm.

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BUSINESS review 2008

Claim 2 Gain

No ambulance chasing, just a battle for justice

When you think of a company making claims on a 'no-win, no-fee' basis do you automatically think of ambulance-chasing solicitors who will do anything to find a potential claim in any situation?

If you do, maybe you should think again. Claim 2 Gain is a Kent based claims management company specialising in dealing with claims for mis-sold financial products and services. Although we work on a 'no-win, no-fee' basis we do not 'chase ambulances' to make potential claims as unfortunately many people have been mis-sold financial products without even knowing it and won't have the benefit of an ambulance helping them when things go wrong, which is why they ask for our help.

Unfortunately the days of your bank manager personally looking after your account and 'the man from the Pru' knocking on your door to collect the monthly insurance premiums are long gone.

Your bank manager has been replaced by a call centre and the man from the Pru has been replaced by a direct debit on your bank account. The 'service' has been taken out of financial services and replaced with 'profit', if your bank can sell you another insurance/pension/savings policy whenever you go in they will do, and unfortunately these products are often not wanted and on many occasions mis-sold as they just 'don't do what they say on the tin'.

Claim 2 Gain has been helping people get redress or refunds from their banks and insurance companies for over five years and was among the first claims management ccompanies to take the insurance industry to task about the mis-selling of endowment policies.

Since winning over £30 million in redress for mis-sold endowment policies Claim 2 Gain has gone on to help thousands of people log claims with their bank for the refund of excessive overdraft charges, reclaim excessive charges made by credit card companies for simply going over the account limit or missing a payment, and deal with reclaiming massively over-priced loan insurance premiums sold alongside loans and credit cards.

Again Claim 2 Gain were one of the first claims management companies to be actively asking the banks and loan companies how they could justify charging people thousands of pounds for insurance policies that weren't covering them properly.

Potentially, millions of people have been sold insurance alongside their loan or credit card which is completely worthless and which they could never claim against. The financial services regulators, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) recently published their concerns that they felt that up to half of all loan insurance policies may have been sold without the borrower even knowing they had taken out such a policy.

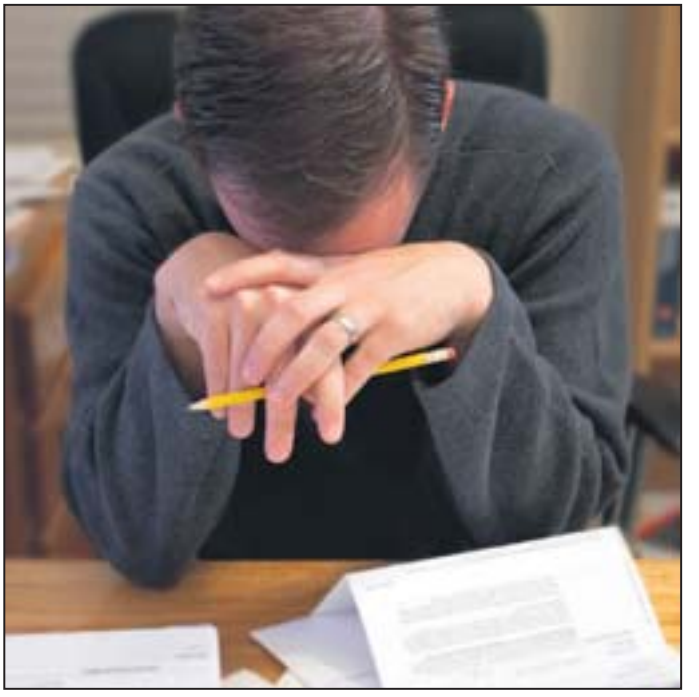
When you consider that in some cases the insurance premium alone can cost half the amount you are borrowing, and this is without any interest being added, you can understand how banks and loan insurance companies are making billions of pounds of profit from these policies each year.

If you don't have the time or think you need assistance with making a claim, you can ask a claims management company to investigate the sale for you.

We would recommend that if you choose to use a claims management company you never pay an upfront fee and you only use a company that is willing to work on a 'no-win, no-fee' basis, so if your policy was sold correctly you don't have to pay to find out.

Unfortunately, as the recent banking crisis has proved, where there is profit to be made someone, somewhere will sell you a financial product or service that may not be best suited for you, in which case Claim 2 Gain will also be there fighting for justice for the victims of the next mis-selling scandal.

Claim 2 Gain are investigating the sales of many products and services which have been sold by major banks and insurance companies over the years and are finding many everyday products are not being sold correctly, the right information is not being given or people are just being ripped off; make sure you aren't one of them and if you are, make sure you get back what is yours.



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BUSINESS review 2008

Fusion

Relax to feel and look your best

Fusion Hair and Beauty is the place to go for people who want to look and feel their very best.

Eight years ago the first salon opened in Herne Bay and that has now been joined by a sister enterprise in the Westwood Cross Shopping Centre, Broadstairs.

Sisters and expert stylists Emma and Becca Place, formerly from London, now operate the business, bringing the expertise they learnt in Britain's most vibrant city to those who care about how they look in Kent – spotting a gap in the market which needed to be filled.

Inspiration and interior design has come from London bars, restaurants and hotels so that a truly cosmopolitan feel greets customers as they relax and prepare for the attention of expert beauty therapists.

Becca also has links with L'Oreal and is exposed to the latest designs and styles on the catwalk via the prestige international business, so she is fully aware of what the upcoming styles of the season are – to the benefit of her many clients and customers across the county.

The business is one of just 12 L'Oreal Image Salons in the UK and one of only three to be a certified business using the Keraskin range – the others are Harrods and London-based stylist Richard Ward.

Westwood Cross will soon see another double treatment room added to the existing premises, a relaxation area and a sauna.

The two sisters have a firm philosophy in business.

They have the passion which makes for success and they thoroughly believe in what they do.

A fabulous team of stylists works with them and reflects the quality and customer care they show – as well as benefiting from their huge experience.

Having huge worldwide companies believe in and value them is an enormous bonuses and one which is passed on to clients.

Then there is what the business really does best – offering clients something unique and giving them the perfect experience from the time they walk through the doors to the time they leave after a relaxing session which has left them looking and feeling at their very best.









Inspiration for Fusion Hair and Beauty's modern-look interior design comes from London's bar, restaurant and hotel scene

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Margate Road, Broadstairs
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BUSINESS review 2008

Lydden Hill Race Circuit





On track for a high-speed thrill

LYDDEN Hill Race Circuit has over the years established itself as one of the county's leading venues.

Situated just a few miles north of the Port of Dover and close to Canterbury, it has proved an excellent attraction for competitors and spectators throughout Europe and the UK.

A favourite with many competitiors in many genres of motorsport, Lydden is also a favourite spectator attraction offering views covering the majority of the circuit regardless of viewpoint, courtesy of its natural ampitheatre bowl.

Lydden Hill Race Circuit plays host to many major events such as the MSA British Rallycross Championship, the BHP Performance Show and motorcycle racing.

It is also now the host to round one of the prestigious FIA European Rallycross Championship in 2009, which is expected to attract more than 30,000 spectators.

The track was founded by the late Bill Chesson and the Astra Motor Club in 1955.

They promoted stock-car racing and grass-track racing for motorcycles, and it wasn't until 1965, when asphalt was laid for the circuit that it started hosting car racing up to Formula 3.

On February 4, 1967. the sport of Rallycross was born at Lydden.

Combining tarmac and non-tarmac elements, the inaugural race was won by Vic Elford in a Porsche 911.

Between 1973 and 1996 Lydden Circuit saw a total of 23 rounds for the Embassy/ERA European Rallycross Championships and FIA European Championships for Rallycross Drivers, all organised by the Thames Estuary Automobile Club (TEAC).

To this day, Lydden, as the so-called 'Home of Rallycross', still holds British Rallycross Championship racing, especially with its Easter Monday meeting.

For the 40th anniversary event in 2007, 8,000 people packed into Lydden, which is currently the spectator record for the circuit.

From 2008 the new leaseholder of the circuit, for at least five years, is former MSA British Rallycross Champion (2002 and 2005) and FIA European Rallycross Championship runner-up (1992) Pat Doran.

Pat, an Englishman of Irish origin from Thorverton in Devon, alongside daughter and managing director of the company, Amy, has spent more than half a million pounds on the venue. They include improvements to the circuit and its facilities.

For more details please see www.lydden-hill.co.uk.

Proud to be hosting round one of the 2009 FIA European Rallycross Championship

Welcome to the home of Rallycross...



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www.lyddenhill.co.uk

Tel: 01304 830 557

Lydden International Race Circuit, Wootton, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6TO

BUSINESS review 2008

East Malling Conference Centre





Where delegates get a taste of Kent

East Malling Conference Centre is located on the site of East Malling Research (EMR), near Maidstone.

The research station began in 1913 with local growers identifying the need for scientific support for their crops. The growers decided to fund the business themselves by buying a plot of land and employing a scientist.

The research has grown into a worldwide focal point for disseminating knowledge to growers of horticultural crops, and a need was identified for a modern purpose-built facility to host meetings.

The centre was built in 2002 with the aid of Government funding and opened to outside business users in 2003.

In 2004 a dedicated conference centre manager was employed to take the business to the next level. The number of delegates passing through the door is in excess of 10,000 a year, and continues to rise steadily.

The centre hosts business meetings, conferences and training events for a variety of public sector and corporate clients, ranging from two-200 delegates.

There are five meeting rooms for hire with flexible seating arrangements, along with a free car park for 200 cars.

The events team delivers a high quality service with a positive can-do attitude and are on hand throughout all events to ensure clients get the most out of their day.

All rooms have natural daylight, air-conditioning, are pillar free and have audio-visual equipment.

There are on-site catering facilities where sumptuous buffets are produced on a daily basis and include East Malling Apple Juice, produced from the apples grown in the orchards on site. A Kentish menu is also available making the most of locally produced foods.

Located just 10 minutes from Junction 4 of the M20 the centre is ideally positioned with rail links to London and the south coast and Maidstone, yet set in a tranquil environment of 200 hectares of fruit orchards.

The centre is also an outlet for East Malling Fine Foods (a subsidiary of EMR) selling a variety of locally produced preserves, apple juice and fudge. Currently Christmas fare including hampers and trees are available in the centre and through a stall at the entrance to the estate.

The centre operates daily delegate rates that are all inclusive, making it easier for organisers to plan their event.

There is free WiFi available and there are never any hidden costs. Clients can make use of 30-day credit facilities as well. Loyalty and multiple booking discounts are available.

In addition to business meetings, team-building activities are available from clay pigeon shooting and geese herding to quad-bike races through forests.

The centre is open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm, access is available outside of these times on request.

East Malling Conference Centre, New Road, East Malling ME19 6BJ. Call 01732 523781, fax 01732 849067, email cassie.luchford@emr.ac.uk or see www.emconference.co.uk.



MP's fears for friends after terror attacks

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

TERRORIST atrocities in Mumbai left a Kent MP fearing for the lives of friends he thought may have been staying in the city's worst-hit areas.

Derek Wyatt sits on the international advisory board of one of Bollywood's leading film schools, Whistling Woods, and feared some of his colleagues may have been caught up in the attacks, which claimed 181 lives last month.

The Sittingbourne and Sheppey Labour MP said: "A lot of us rang each other to check we were alright, but of course everybody else was doing the same thing so it was very difficult to get through. Thankfully everyone was OK.

"I stayed at the Taj Hotel for a UK Trade and Investment awards ceremony in 2005 and it was awful to hear about the damage caused to it by the terrorists. I also shook the hand of its manager, who was killed in the attacks.

"It was an obvious target for them because its guests are a 50/50 split of foreigners and Indians, but it was a wonderful hotel and I hope they rebuild it."



CONCERN: Derek Wyatt

The terror attacks began in Mumbai on the morning of November 26 when militants hijacked a number of locations throughout the city, including a railway station, café and hospital.

Police and security forces regained control of all the sites within three days but the atrocities have since caused concern among people travelling to the country.

However, Mr Wyatt did not let the attacks stop him from flying to India on Tuesday in his role as the Government's head of India-UK relations for higher education in information technology.

Speaking before leaving the UK, Mr Wyatt said: "I'm travelling with 15 university professors to Hyderabad and I'm guessing the security will be stricter than usual.

"I've been assured we will be OK but you can't live your life being worried that something terrible will happen. We had a bomb go off on the tube in London, but I still used it the next day.

During the three-day visit to Hyderabad, Mr Wyatt and his team met with experts in the field of artificial intelligence.

All the members of the England cricket team also returned to India this week to play two Test matches.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk



Indian mission for youngsters

PUPILS at a Kent school swapped exercise books for building materials when they spent three weeks helping poverty-stricken villagers in India.

Youngsters at Welling School in Bexley built composting toilets and provided access to safe water for their grateful hosts in Kandegala, in the southern state of Karnataka.

The trip was organised by the education charity Raleigh and was designed to teach the children about teamwork, leadership, communication and problem-solving, as well as to raise awareness of cultural differences.

Expedition teacher Zara Flynn said: "They witnessed first-hand a different culture and were proud to have provided the community with such a valuable resource.

"They worked hard and finished the toilets in record time. We could not have wished for a more fabulous experience."

Pupils who took part in the trip attended a de-briefing at the school on Monday that also included representatives from London Challenge and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Sixteen-year-old Isabella Goss said: "The Raleigh expedition has influenced me immensely.

"To see people so happy when they have so little makes us in this part of the world look greedy and unappreciative.

"Having the chance to go to India was life-changing and made me appreciate my life a lot more.

"I have become more self-motivated and determined. I now feel as if I can tackle any challenges that are thrown at me."

Funding for the trip was granted to Raleigh by the youth volunteering charity, v.

Raleigh chief executive Stacey Adams said: "The expedition is part of a special programme run by Raleigh to encourage pupils to volunteer to raise their aspirations and improve their confidence and self-esteem."

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KENT ON SUNDAY
COMMENT

No way to treat a hero's family

THOSE who fought for Britain during both world wars are, quite rightly, looked upon with a great deal of respect.

So why is it that Gurkhas who also give their lives for this country do not seem to warrant similar treatment?

Colour Sergeant Krishna Dura was one of the British Army's best snipers and his death in Afghanistan last month was a real tragedy. But none have mourned as much as this brave soldier's wife and children, who now have to worry about being deported.

As Gurkha rights campaigner Joanna Lumley says, the Government should tell C/Sgt Dura's family they can stay in the UK in recognition of his ultimate sacrifice.

It is simply not right that his family can now be thrown out of the country after more than a decade.

Shock of the new

KENT Police's enthusiasm for the Home Secretary's offer of funding for more Taser stun guns is a worrying development.

While it is understandable that officers want the weapons in order to protect themselves and the public, we do not want to end up with a situation where they are as widespread as in North America.

They are hailed as a non-lethal alternative, but a 50,000-volt shock is a weapon that should only be made available to specially trained firearms officers.

We need a debate about the wider use of Tasers and it is regrettable that this could not happen before the force applies for funding to increase the number of these frightening weapons on Kent's streets.

OPINION: Fate worse than debt



TONY PATEY traces the fuse of the economic timebomb that has now exploded in our faces back to the beatification of the free market and restoration of blind faith in the 'invisible hand'

IT WAS rocket science – and it lit a long-running fuse to the biggest economic timebomb in UK history.

Time: mid-1990s. Place: City of London. Slickers of all kinds were on the rampage and you could even take courses on how to develop fancy money-making 'instruments' which were so sharp you could cut yourself on them. The courses, advertised in all the big magazines and via emails, offered the chance to make millions by slicing and cutting, selling on, buying back, selling short, selling long, all at breakneck speed.

These so-called derivatives were so complicated that tutors recommended you had at least a first degree in mathematics and preferably physics (I kid you not). The courses also cost thousands.

The newspaper I was working on at the time as an economics correspondent, The European, refused to let me go on one because it would cost so much, even though I wanted to do a feature. The fancy footwork was all about making money out of money. Usually loans and complicated share and foreign exchange deals, and eventually mortgages, and then … even subprime mortgages.

Now you'll probably get my drift. How the hell did UK banks get mixed up with home loans to poor Americans who had no means of paying them back? The roots are there in the mid-90s. There were warning bells. In fact, there was one so loud it should have deafened us. A little matter of the most ancient and venerable merchant bank in the City, Barings. A whippersnapper from Watford, Nick Leeson, who had worked his way up through the bank to being one of its star dealers – called derivatives traders – had gone missing from his Far East job in early 1995.

He'd left a note saying, "I'm sorry" on his desk. He was finally arrested in Germany, but had clocked up losses which eventually reached £827 million, twice the bank's available trading capital. Barings went bust, all because of one employee.

Immediately there should have been a crackdown. There would have been cries of woe from traders that the free market was being compromised and that financial markets should be self-regulating. Perhaps it was a measure of how strongly the free market idea was held after its beatification under Margaret Thatcher. Or perhaps it was because her Conservative successor, John Major, was still in charge that nothing was done.

Ex-Chancellor Mr Major, I'm sure, was intelligent enough to see what needed to be done, but he obviously had other pressures to consider. It doesn't detract from the fact that it should have been done and we've paid the price. Labour leader Tony Blair did nothing, either, when he came to power.

The signal was quite clear: carry on with the rocket science.

Once banks started down the easy-come, easy-go path, like all gamblers, they became greedy. Warning bells sounded just a decade after Barings. Even the International Monetary Fund, not known for its altruistic tendencies, rang a few. It said the UK, and later the US, housing markets were too heavily mortgaged and there was too much domestic debt. The bubble would soon burst. Again, no-one listened.

About two years ago, when newspapers were running stories that UK personal debt had topped a trillion pounds for the first time – and, hey, shouldn't we be worried about this, folks? – banks were encouraging people to borrow even more.

At the time, I stood in a building society queue which was slowly getting longer. All the cubicles were operating, but every time a customer finished the assistant asked if they wanted a loan for a new car or something else. Obviously everyone was having a think about that. It was the bank offering, after all, so it must be okay.

When it came to my turn – fuming after a long wait – I said: "Don't you think it's a bit irresponsible? You should be urging people to pay off debt."

That caused a stir. Assistants craned to look, people in the queue waited to see what was going to happen. The assistant said nothing and I walked (all right, chickened) out. Perhaps I should have taken a chance and got myself arrested – the first martyr of the credit crunch.



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Door to dictatorship

AS A constituent of Damian Green, at least until the next election changes the parliamentary boundaries, I have very mixed feelings about my MP being arrested and kept in custody for nine hours.

All MPs should know about the criminal justice system and perhaps just occasionally they should experience what thousands of innocent men and women experience every year; namely, being arrested for lengthy periods, often without charge.

Perhaps then they will begin to understand why limiting the time people are kept in detention without charge is such a cherished liberty in a democratic society and not one to be devalued without the most pressing of reasons.

God forbid we should go back to the dark ages when certain people were above the law. That would be to open the door to dictatorship or to return us to the days of the divine right of kings, when justice was the axe and being hung, drawn and quartered.

What concerns me most about Mr Green's arrest, however, is the raiding of his constituency offices and taking away his computer and private papers.

If MPs should have but one privilege as of right, then it should be the absolute privacy of communications from constituents. And that means, unequivocally, the right to stop the police, MI5, MI6 or whoever from gaining access to a constituent's correspondence.

Donald Worsley, Aldington

Not fit for purpose

I DO not believe Home Secretary Jacqui Smith knew nothing of the police operation against Damian Green.

If she didn't know an MP was about to be arrested and his homes and offices raided for daring to go about his lawful business – holding this neurotic Government to account – then she is not fit for purpose.

This Government has entered upon an even murkier phase in its history. Its leadership is clearly suffering from the same persecution complex that afflicts Robert Mugabe's government in Zimbabwe. It too believes it can use the police and security forces to intimidate and neutralise opposition. The police should be hauled over the coals and made to explain why officers acted they way they did.

We won't have our ancient rights trampled so carelessly. The Government and police better get that through their thick heads.

Gerry ODonnell, Ramsgate First

Kent supports the Addicks

WE WERE disappointed by your feature about local television coverage of Charlton Athletic (November 30) as it fails to recognise the depth of our support and commitment outside London.

You claim few would dispute that Addicks fans are outnumbered by supporters of the Big Four in Kent and that other London clubs are arguably equally well supported in the county.

In the case of Manchester United it probably depends on how you define a supporter, but if you mean people who attend matches we have no doubt that Charlton have the most fans living in Kent and certainly more than Gillingham.

We wish the Gills and Kent's other clubs well, but none of them have countywide support in the way that Kent County Cricket Club could claim to have. And why should East Sussex viewers be any more interested in Gillingham than Charlton, when we have thousands of supporters in that county too? It is a geographical fact that we are the local Football League team in Dartford and the surrounding area.

The point you completely miss, however, is that Charlton are active in Kent itself.

Apart from our matchday coach service with over 50 pick-ups across the county, our community trust works in formal partnership with KCC, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue, Kent schools and the Kent districts to deliver social inclusion, education and other community programmes to well over 10,000 people a week.

We stage a series of summer events to engage youngsters across the county and we provide football coaching courses around Kent, including free beach soccer in August on the Thanet coast.

Finally, of course, we have excellent business connections in Kent, including a strong commercial relationship with KOS Media, which sees you advertise at The Valley and make regular use of our hospitality facilities.

In other words, our Kent profile is very different from that of other London clubs, let alone United and Liverpool, and the TV companies evidently understand that – even if your reporters aren't aware of it.

Rick Everitt, Head of Club Development, Charlton Athletic FC

Nonplussed by demise

DAVID Burgess celebrates the demise of the 11-plus in Northern Ireland (Letters, November 30). Does he also celebrate the fact that 75 per cent of children there achieve five good GCSEs, as opposed to 66 per cent in England?

Do Mr Burgess and the opponents of grammar schools celebrate the fact that under the selective system, 43 per cent of Northern Irish pupils who go on to university are from disadvantaged backgrounds, compared with 28 per cent under our comprehensive system?

This allegedly outdated model of education has brought about levels of social mobility New Labour can only dream about.

Nick Singer, Bearsted

Machiavellian Mandy

Ros Altmann was right to highlight the plight of savers, but she might have expanded on the theme. I will attempt to assist.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown does not like savers and has consistently short-changed them, both to fund his credit-fuelled boom and now to pay for his credit-crunch bust.

In this situation, savers have no investment returns to spend on any economic recovery, so Mr Brown again encourages those least suited to accumulate yet more credit.

Unprecedented government borrowing and the collapse of interest rates has destabilised the pound and it is losing value fast against other currencies.

The UK is a significant net importer of goods so prices will rise, generating inflation and further diluting the capital funds of savers. Debtors (including indebted governments) love inflation as any loan can be paid back against a depreciating currency.

It is tempting to ask whether this Government has any respect for tangible assets at all, but merely worships an ability to accumulate debt.

As savers outnumber borrowers by a large margin, this Government has great cause to fear a general election. Machiavellian Europhile Lord Mandelson is back in favour and rumoured to be anxious for the UK to adopt the euro.

Any disaffection over sterling is grist to his mill. Those tempted by his siren song should be aware that those countries adopting the euro typically found price increases of 20 per cent resulting from the transition, plus a loss

Letters continue on p62

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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BIRTHS

ATTKINS
Christine and Neil of Broadstairs are delighted to announce the birth of their son William Thomas, born on 27th November 2008 at QEQM. Brother to Noah.

BAKER
Rubie-Jane Amber born on 27th November 2008, weighing 8lb 10oz. Daughter to Aaron and Marie of Dover.

BARRETT
Craig and Larayne of Broadstairs celebrate the birth of their daughter Freya Linda Mary on 29th November 2008. Little sister for Riley.

BULLEN
A new gorgeous baby daughter Kaiya Jai, born to Colin and Hannah on Sunday 15th November at 3am, weighing 6lb 10oz. A new baby sister for Ashleigh, Jasmin and Chloe. Special thanks to Delice and Richard Purvis for all their help during the birth.

CAESAR-SAVAGE
Whitney Mariah Caesar-Savage born on 1st December 2008, weighing 4lb 11oz. Daughter to Matthew Savage and Amanda Caesar of Maidstone.

CAREY
Coan Dean Carey born on 25th November 2008, weighing 7lb 6oz. Son to Claire Fisher and Dean Carey of Maidstone.

DUNHAM
Jake Matthew born 29th November 2008, weighing 8lb 110z. Son to Charlotte and Matthew of Dover.

LASHMAR
Finley born on 27th November 2008, weighing 6lbs 8oz. Son to Debra Garratt and Troy Lashmar in Ramsgate.

LEPETIT
Lewis John Hollington was born on 27th November 2008 weighing 7lb 15oz to proud parents Lee Hollington and Natasha Lepetit.

MARTIN
Amanda and Ian of Ramsgate,celebrate the birth of their son Joshua Brian on 27th November 2008,weighing 6lb 7oz. Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

MILHAM
Finlay Colin Brian born on 28th November 2008,weighing 11lb 12oz. Son to Fran and Kevin in Birchington. Precious brother to Nicole and Harry.

MUNDAY
Harrison Freddie born on 25th November 2008, weighing 7lb 6oz. Son to Dan and Michelle Munday of Maidstone.

MUNDAY
Danielle born on the 26th November 2008, weighing 6lbs 12oz. Daughter to Sharon Munday and James Tilbey in Ramsgate and sister to Brittany and Cody.

NIKHWAI-HOPKINS
Alban and Jeannie would like to warmly welcome Benjamin and Theo to the world, born on 30th November 2008 at Pembury Hospital.

OSBORNE
Elenea Rose Osborne born on 9th November 2008, weighing 7lb 3oz. Daughter to Carley Benson and Roy Osborne of Larkfield.

ROSE
Georgina and David Rose of Snodland celebrate the birth of their daughter Jessica Jean Rose on 29th November 2008.

ROWELL
Andy and Fiona are delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful daughter Olivia Josephine on 22nd November 2008 weighing 8lb 1oz. A sister for Megan and Joseph.

TERRY
Jessica Alice Terry born on 28th November 2008, weighing 7lb 14oz. Daughter to Andrew and Eve Terry in Allington.

TOMLIN
Dylan John Tomlin born on 24th November 2008, weighing 7lb. Son to Lisa Shipp and Daniel Tomlin in Rainham.

TURNER
Russell and Emma Turner celebrate the birth of their daughter Elizabeth Grace on 23rd November 2008. A sister for William.

WELLARD
Sam Andrew born on 1st December 2008, weighing 9lb 9oz. Son to Steve and Diana Wellard of Egerton. Brother to Amy and Jack.

WISDOM
Paul and Sarah are delighted to announce the birth of their son James David John Wisdom born on 30th November weighing 7lb 13.5oz at Darent Valley Hospital.

DEATHS

KIRSCHNICK
Wolfgang Ferdinand Walter of Tunbridge Wells passed away peacefully on 8th December 2008 aged 79 years. Beloved husband of Nora who will be sadly missed. Funeral to be held at Tunbridge Wells Cemetary at 11.30am on 17th December, all enquiries via T W Boorman of Tunbridge Wells.

McLEWIN
Charlotte passed away peacefully aged 93 after a short illness at Littlebourne House, Canterbury. Much loved mother of Angus, mother-in-law to Ali, beloved gran to Joe, Dan and Shaun, and great grandmother to Baxter, formerly of Herne Bay and the Save the Children fund shop. Funeral at Barham Crematorium on Friday 19th December at 12.40pm. Enquiries, flowers and donations to C.W. Lyons, Canterbury, 01227 463508.

PARK
Iris Lillia Park of Ramsgate passed away peacefully on 4th December 2008. Now reunited with her beloved husband Leslie. Will be sadly missed by her large family.

Letters continued from p61

of financial independence. I would like to see 0.1 per cent of the billions being spent on recovery set aside for an investigation of those captains of finance who led us into this mess.

In all other professions, proof of competence is required and failure can lead to serious, sometimes criminal, sanctions.

I have seen little evidence of competence, but those responsible have escaped without cancellation of bonuses or prosecution for fraud or criminal negligence. An explanation of why would not be amiss.

Bob Funnell, Northfleet

Marta doesn't add up

UKIP MEP candidate Spaniard Marta Andreasen's claim that her inside knowledge as former European Commission chief accountant makes her "the perfect candidate to represent the people of Kent" cannot be left unchallenged.

Ms Andreasen worked for the EU for many years, during which the EU, unlike any private company or individual, failed to meet normal accountancy standards. This failure is now in its 14th year.

With the greatest respect, how could such an ineffective person representing a totally ineffective party represent the people of Kent or South East England?

Tony Devenish, Conservative MEP candidate for South East England, Ashford

Derailed by the facts

I WAS surprised to see the letter from James Willis, of Gravesham and Dartford Liberal Democrats, in prime position, because he is wrong.

As I recall, a Conservative government began preparations for the privatisation of the railways before the 1997 general election.

When Labour was elected, it could (one assumes) have discontinued whatever arrangements had already been made, but did not. It was Labour who privatised the railways. So please, Mr Willis, get your facts straight.

Sheila Bransfield, Birchington

Labouring the point

LIB Dem Antony Hook is typical of those who conveniently forget the reason for the privatisation of the railways.

The network had been underfunded since it was nationalised in the late 1940s.

And the acronym Aslef should jog his memory, if he is old enough. I, and tens of thousands of other commuters were persistently forced to make alternative arrangements because the train drivers' union called its members out on half-day strikes (often starting at mid-day) with minimal notice. If Mr Hook wants to blame anyone, try the real culprits: Harold Wilson and James Callaghan for underfunding the network.

Doug Cheverst, Bexleyheath

Hospital staff so caring

LAST week I visited the cardiac catheter suite at Margate hospital. The service and the staff were excellent. They were understanding and caring, in a job that is repetitious.

You read about problems, but I find usually the root problem to any service is lack of funding. Nationwide, our hospitals are under-funded and under-staffed.

Staff have to work so hard to cover for this.

Adrian Ottley, Birchington

Putting the R in green

RECYCLING and waste collections after the Christmas period are the bulkiest of the year.

This holiday season, Kent Green Party is issuing a challenge to everyone to have a greener, less wasteful Christmas.

In a time of recession, many households need to keep costs down.

We want everyone to reuse packaging, reheat appropriate foods, redistribute goods to charity shops or use them as presents, reclaim unwanted furniture for secondhand use, rot down kitchen waste into compost, recycle what cannot be reused and above all re-educate the whole household about redeeming the maximum benefit from the money we spend.

These eight Rs – reuse, reheat, redistribute, reclaim, rot down, recycle, re-educate and redeem – will help keep household debts under control at the most challenging time of year. By all means have a happy Christmas and New Year, but remember, now is the season of waste, not just good cheer. And why waste money if a little thought will make it go further?

Dr Hazel Dawe, Kent Green Party, Tonbridge

For the love of God

CHRISTMAS is almost upon us again and with what is going on in the world, it hardly seems possible.

Every time we read the papers or watch TV, we see that the world does not love its neighbour. The message of Christmas is peace on Earth, goodwill toward men. What happened?

Our once proud and wealthy country is turning its back on the Lord. We are continually told that we are no longer a Christian country. We have become ungrateful, failing to be thankful for our many blessings. Could that be a clue as to what is happening today? Love of God and our neighbour is the only way to obtain the Christmas promise. We can begin now and start to love God and each other again.

June Moore, Tunbridge Wells

My choice to eat meat

JAMES Mason is perfectly correct to accuse me of sarcasm (Letters, last week).

Unfortunately, sarcasm is the only form of criticism that can be directed at someone who has chosen to change their lifestyle and then wishes to impose their overzealous views on everyone else.

It seems silly and strange to me that someone who eats chicken chooses to defend vegetarianism.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler, as a recent convert to vegetarianism, made his choice to stop eating meat. I and the vast majority of the world's population have not made such a choice. No more needs to be said on the subject of choice.

Stefan Reszczynski, Margate

Nation under a cloud

FRIENDS, acquaintances and people who phone me or congratulate me in the street also find what is happening to our once great country very depressing, Mr Egan (Letters, last week).

Pretending it's not happening won't make it go away. They find it depressing to see a 79-year-old with arthritis led away in handcuffs for non-payment of council tax.

They find it depressing that a motorist is imprisoned for two days for allegedly "revving" his car at two Muslims.

They are sick of seeing victims of crime arrested for protecting themselves against criminals, who are usually set free. There's a very long and very depressing list of what ails ordinary, decent people. But who's listening? Who cares? Certainly not our career politicians.

We already live in a dictatorship, Mr Egan – an elected one. When have politicians ever listened to the electorate? Certainly not when over a million people demonstrated against the planned invasion of Iraq.

MPs are supposed to be accountable to us. The audience of the BBC's Question Time speaks more sense than those on the panel.

We need a return to democracy. MPs should represent the views of the electorate. Public servants (such as police chiefs) should be elected, as in the USA. The Lords should be elected. Major issues should be resolved by referenda. MPs should held to account by an independent body.

We are depressed by millions of people voting for more of the same, Mr Egan. More regulation, more taxes, more political control and more corruption.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Booze limits too high

TERRY Hudson (Letters, November 30) misses the point. He seems to believe that the freedom of movement of products is more important than public health.

If it is considered that 'private' consumption limits for moving goods over borders are 800 cigarettes, 10 litres of spirits, 90 litres of wine and 110 litres of beer, then any reasonable person would take the decision I did: that these limits are too high and should be reduced, both to help reduce consumption and determine whether goods are being imported for private or commercial use.

I agree it would help if the taxes on these products were uniform throughout the EU. This would also stop tax competition between states. It would also help if the taxes were higher to reduce the burden alcohol and cigarettes place on health services Europe-wide.

Caroline Lucas, Green MEP, London

Wasteful quangos

I WHOLEHEARTEDLY agree with the opinion piece by Ian Taylor of the Taxpayers' Alliance (November 30).

The regional development agencies are a waste of taxpayers' money, which could be put to far better use by the existing local authority structure. However, what is more worrying is that these bodies are unelected quangos, accountable to nobody and spending our money freely in the current economic climate.

While local authorities are seeing below-inflation increases in the assistance they receive from central government and still having to provide more and more services, these quangos carry on without any pressure on their budgets.

A clear example of their profligacy can been seen in the very same edition of your newspaper where, in the recruitment section, they are advertising for a managing director's personal assistant at a salary of £29,000.

Apparently, part of the duties include dealing with telephone calls, inquiries and receiving visitors. In other words, a receptionist. There are not many other sectors of the economy where such jobs are as well paid as this.

Roy Parsons, Sevenoaks

Riding the gravy train

IF I were Antony Hook, Lib Dem candidate for the European Parliament, I would take care when blaming the Conservatives for privatising the railways.

His own party would have willingly supported the break-up of our rail network in order to comply with the competition laws of the EU.

The three main political parties all support our membership of the EU, and will therefore obey our masters in Brussels.

Incidently, there is no such organisation as the European Parliament. It is the European Union Parliament – commonly known as the gravy train.

Terry Kendall, Folkestone

RAF fund's stairlift gift

I AM writing to let your readers know about the marvellous help the RAF Benevolent Fund can provide for serving or retired RAF personnel and their partners and dependants.

My husband served in the RAF for his National Service, from 1953-58, and was stationed in Jordan and Cyprus as well as the UK. Recently we have been experiencing mobility problems, particularly with getting up and down stairs.

Eventually we contacted our council to see if we could get some assistance with this. To our surprise, they suggested we contact the RAF Benevolent Fund. We had never dreamed we would be eligible for help. How wrong we were. After examining our case, they issued a grant to have a stairlift installed.

I cannot begin to describe what an enormous difference this has made to the quality of our lives. I don't know how we ever managed without it.

We are immensely grateful and want to let other members of the RAF family know about the excellent support the fund

provides. So if any of your readers are serving or retired members of the RAF and are in need of help, I urge them to contact the helpline – 0800 077 6858 – or visit the website www.rafbf.org.

Jean Royel, Canterbury

Buzzing with concern

YOUR report on the endangered honey bee is very worrying. Equally worrying is the situation of other species of bee.

There were more than 300 species of bee in Britain and they are all now endangered. I noticed a collapse in the population of bumble bees and solitary bees after the wet winter of 2000. They were probably drowned while hibernating underground. They have not yet recovered.

One factor in the decline of bees is the indiscriminate use of poisons in agriculture and horticulture. Obsessive tidiness in gardens destroys nesting sites as does the concreting over of lawns and gardens.

There needs to be a greater control over the use of pesticides. The present proposals by the EU are a move in the right direction.

Leaving rough areas in gardens will help provide nesting sites. It is possible to provide nest boxes for bumble bees and solitary bees. Many garden centres sell them and they are quite easy to make.

Growing flowers to provide food for bees throughout the year will also help.

Most species of bee are now so scarce that they are in serious danger from inbreeding.

It will be a long time before they recover.

David Burgess, Hawkhurst

Bee afraid, very afraid

YOUR story suggesting that honey and fruit production will be hit by declining bee numbers merely scratches the surface of the threat posed by the loss of bees.

While one-third of food of is directly produced from food pollinated by insects, the knock-on effects of the devastation of bee colonies will impact most land-based food production in the long term.

Scientists have dubbed the honey bee the most invaluable species on the planet, yet there seems to be little concern about the rapidly declining numbers.

Of course, it is not just the bees that are declining. Extinction and decline over the past few decades has been at a rate not known since the disappearance of the dinosaurs, with the World Wildlife Fund's Living Planet Index showing a 30 per cent drop in biodiversity since 1970 and attributing this to human actions.

These include CO2 in the atmosphere, chopping down rainforests to provide land for meat production, building roads and spraying pesticides. All contribute to a fight against nature that, sadly, we seem to be winning.

Individuals and governments need to become wise to the world around us, the natural world that ultimately feeds and clothes us. We have to work with the living world rather than against it. We are, after all, part of it.

Stuart Jeffery, Green Party Parliamentary Candidate for Maidstone and the Weald

Twist the silver knife

RECENT correspondence regarding Margate's Turner Contemporary gallery reminds me of a story by the late Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright, television's Two Fat Ladies.

There was once a great beauty who was courted by every man in the land.

An admirer offered her anything she desired – gold, diamonds, rubies, emeralds – but all she wanted was a silver penknife. So he bought her one. Imagine his surprise when she put it in a drawer filled with silver penknives.

"Why did you ask for a silver penknife when you have so many already?" he asked.

"Ah," she replied, "I may be young and beautiful now, with men falling at my feet, but one day I will be old and ugly, and I know what Boy Scouts will do for a silver penknife!"

So it is with Margate, and the Turner gallery is no silver penknife.

Michael K Baldwin, Sittingbourne



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Compost tips

A COURSE will be held next month for people who want to compost their rubbish and teach others to do the same.

Staff from the Kent Compost Adviser Project will be in Ashford on Sunday, January 25, to speak about the benefits of recycling biodegradable waste.

A range of topics will be discussed at the gathering, and free compost bins and handbooks will be given out.

To book a place on the course, which costs £5, call Fiona Houghton on 01233 666519 or email f.houghton@btcv.org.uk.

Learn floristry

A SERIES of floristry workshops and talks will take place at Hadlow College, Tonbridge, in February.

Those who attend will learn how to create funeral flower arrangements as well as receive tips from gardeners and lecturers.

A number of visits to the national collection of hellebores in Hadlow have also been arranged.

For more information call 0500 551434 or email www.hadlow.ac.uk.

Business good for Lou

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A FORMER mental health patient has launched her own business after discovering the training opportunities available to her in Kent.

Louise Jessup, 50, from Aldington near Ashford, spent 25 years on benefits before she turned her life around and set up the creative textile company Bumble Designs.

She puts her recovery down to a mixture of the correct diagnosis of her illness and joining the Enterprise Gateway Service's Go Ahead project, which is geared towards women thinking of launching their own businesses.

Miss Jessup said: "My problems began within three years of starting work. I was a physiotherapist at Ashford hospital but lost that career at 25 and it looked as if I might never work again.

"For 25 years I was reliant on benefits, and at one point I was detained for six months under the Mental Health Act. The journey out has been quite miraculous."

Following a successful spell of medication and counselling, Miss Jessup put her name down for an IT course at South Kent College and was named student of the year for 2004-05.



NEW START: Louise Jessup has overcome mental illness to start her own business

She returned to employment with Tesco and gradually increased her hours and responsibilities while at the same time training with the Go Ahead service.

Miss Jessup said of the course: "We were taken through all the aspects of running your own business, while different workshops gave us excellent practical help.

"Go Ahead built my confidence and self-esteem to the point where I was able to launch Bumble Designs.

"It was a positive project and all of the women who took part, even those who chose to continue in their existing careers, benefited from the workshops."

Miss Jessup's return to form has proved so inspirational that she was short-listed by the disability organisation Radar to be one of its people of the year.

However, the overall winner announced at a ceremony in London earlier this month was City banker Jonathan Naess, who also battled against mental illness before founding the charity Stand to Reason.

Miss Jessup said: "It was a fantastic evening and I'm delighted Jonathan's win will help put the spotlight on mental illness because it is too often a Cinderella problem and one that is sadly overlooked."

Jason Martin, director of the Enterprise Gateway Service in south Kent, said: "Louise is an example of how having the right attitude and with the right kind of help, you can overcome anything.

"We're proud of everything she's achieved and we look forward to helping her achieve her goals. There's no stopping her now."

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Awards for New Line in learning

MANDARIN and catering were among the subjects New Line Learning Academy students were honoured in at their annual prize-giving ceremony.

About 64 youngsters received awards at the event, which was hosted by head boy Andrew Davies and head girl Ella Harvey.

The prizes were handed out by the chairman of governors at the Maidstone-based academy, Ray Harris, as well as executive principal Chris Gerry and headteacher Guy Hewett.

Mr Hewett said: "I think NLL Academy is fundamentally about helping our young people succeed with qualifications, skills and values.

"The prize giving demonstrated our success and I'm very proud of my students and of the future they represent for this country."

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As part of a committed team, your energetic and enthusiastic attitude will gain the respect of our young people. It will help them take stock of their lives, adopt a more positive approach and learn to respect others. Working directly with the young people, helping them learn social and life skills, motivating them to complete their daily tasks and ensuring that the centre rules are followed are just a few of the things you'll do in this busy and varied role.

You will need to be non-judgmental and compassionate with a firm but fair attitude. Helping to build self esteem, you'll help to guide our young people to a fresh start and release their true potential.

Control Room Officer (Part time)

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If you'd like to join our friendly and professional team please call us on 01634 823322 Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 4.00pm quoting reference KSTC12 and stating which role you are interested in.

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You will need experience of delivering or managing brief psychological therapies and a relevant qualification at diploma or degree level. A strong commitment to evidence based practice is vital and experience of quality assurance systems relevant to primary care/therapy (e.g. CORE) would be an advantage. You will need to be self-motivated, innovative, able to inspire your team and possess empathy balanced with the ability to achieve goals.

For an informal discussion, please contact Sam Downie, Assistant Director at sdownie@kca.org.uk

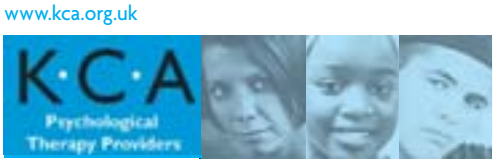
An application form and job description can be downloaded from http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, you can write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference: 538

Closing date: 5pm, 2 January 2009.

Interview date: 14 January 2009.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk



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POWERED BY KOS MEDIA

Young Persons' Drug & Alcohol Service Co-ordinator Workforce Development (Kent)

£22,664 - £28,862 (SCP 27 - 35) plus up to £1,095 Essential Car User Allowance

BASED CANTERBURY

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.
Our Young Persons' Service provides drug and alcohol services across Kent and we work with young people, parents/carers and other agencies, delivering advice, information, support and prevention initiatives, ongoing casework and intensive interventions.

For several years we have delivered DUST (Drug Use Screening Tool) training across the county, commissioned by Kent Drug & Alcohol Action Team. We need someone to co-ordinate and deliver this programme, take a lead on other workforce development issues, as well as help develop good working relationships with the Local Childrens' Services Partnerships and raise the profile of our services. You will also work with our internal training team to develop training packages specific to staff working with young people.

You will need a thorough knowledge of substance misuse issues in relation to young people and a good understanding of the service framework within which we work in Kent. You must have considerable experience of delivering training and a flexible, self-motivated and committed approach.

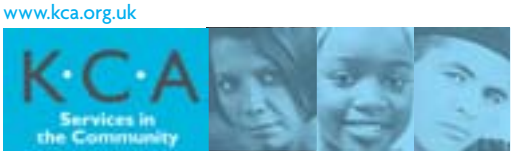
An application form and job description can be obtained from http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html or e-mail recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, you can write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call: 01795 590635. Please quote reference 534.

Closing date: 19 December 2008.

Interview date: 9 January 2009.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk



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Porchlight
Changing attitudes · Changing lives

Would you like to ensure vulnerable and homeless people have a positive future?

TRUSTEE/DIRECTOR

By volunteering your knowledge, skills and experience you will be an integral part of our vision of a society where homelessness and poverty are a thing of the past and where vulnerable people are empowered to take control of their lives.

Over the past ten years Porchlight has expanded its services from Canterbury to surrounding areas in East Kent. In the last year the charity has further grown to cover the whole of Kent after being awarded a contract by Kent Supporting people to run its outreach service across the county.

Porchlight provides a host of services aimed at changing vulnerable people's lives for the better either through providing supported accommodation, tenancy sustainment support or by helping them gain access to specialist support from other organisations. Last year we helped over 1400 people change their lives for the better.

Interested?

Then we want to hear from you. We are especially interested in people with skills or knowledge of supported housing, building maintenance, social care or public services.

In return for attending Board Meetings (one evening per month) you will be making a significant contribution in helping excluded and vulnerable members of our society.

How to apply...

For an informal chat about the role or about the charity in general please call our Chief Executive, Mike Barrett on 01227 760078.

Application packs can be requested through the same number, by emailing recruitment@porchlight.org.uk or visiting our website www.porchlight.org.uk

We value diversity. Registered Charity No: 267116

www.porchlight.org.uk

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Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

KOSMEDIA | Telephone: 01303 817040 | Fax: 01303 817004 | Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

northfleet technology college

Colyer Road
Northfleet, Gravesend
Kent DA11 8BG

Head: John Hassett MA

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

In collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College, we wish to offer the following:

Trainee placement on the following Graduate Teacher Programmes

Maths – Design Technology

The successful candidate will receive training from experienced teachers at Northfleet Technology College supplemented by a number of days provided by Canterbury University.

The successful person must have at least 50% of their degree in their chosen subject. They need to be organised, self motivated and able to work independently.

Salary will be £15,113.

This very popular school of 900 boys, awarded specialist status in September 2003, is situated in the 'Thames Gateway' area of Kent, with excellent links to nearby London and the Channel coast. NTC is an exciting environment to work in, which is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff. There is a well established ethos of professional development for all our employees.

We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details.

An application form can be obtained from by telephone 01474 533802, fax 01474 536122 or by email taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk. Please enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date is **Wednesday 31st December 2008**

Senior Economic Policy Officer

Thames Gateway Kent Partnership (TGKP) • £40,000 + Benefits

If you've proven economic analysis skills and a creative approach, this is your chance to play a central role in the growth of Thames Gateway - Europe's biggest regeneration project.

For further details on this position please see the full advert on http://jobs.swale.gov.uk or contact Human Resources, Tel (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting reference 300TG3.

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk

Closing date: 29 Dec 2008 Interviews: expected to be held in Jan 2009

SELLINDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL
VACANCY
FULL TIME SCHOOL SECRETARY

Required for January 2009
Kent Pay Scheme Band 5
40 weeks a year 8:30 – 4:00

For details please contact: **Miss Baxter**
Sellindge Primary School,
Main Road, Sellindge, Kent TN25 6JY
Tel: **01303-812073**
Email: **headteacher@sellindge-ashford.kent.sch.uk**

Folkestone, Marlowe and Spires Academies
Clerk to the Governors/Project Officer

Are you a good organiser, able to bring people together and make things happen? Do you enjoy the challenge of finding out new information and compiling interesting and relevant reports? Would you like to be at the cutting edge of educational change?

We are looking for someone who can combine the role of Clerk to the Governors for our three academies with a project officer role in supporting the development of our all age academy programme. This is the ideal job for an agile minded individual who enjoys the challenge of a varied range of responsibilities, working as part of a small Folkestone-based team.

Based in Folkestone Academy, you will be expected to travel to Canterbury and Ramsgate and be ready to adapt to a range of tasks.

- Start date: February or March 2009
- Salary £24,000 pa + benefits

For an informal discussion please contact Gabrielle Wilson on 01303 212048
Application packs can be obtained from www.folkestoneacademy.com

Closing date for applications: 9th January 2009

Spires Academy · The Folkestone academy · Marlowe Academy

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Electrical Maintenance Technician — Ref: P0070

Salary: £15,057 - £18,534

The successful candidate will assist the Maintenance Manager in the maintenance and repair of electrical systems and carry-out testing, servicing and minor works, including replacement of electrical installations, fire and lighting systems. The applicant will be a qualified electrician and conversant with the 16th and/or 17th Edition Wiring Regulations.

Lecturer in Travel & Tourism — Ref: P0543

(Part-time 33 hours per week) Salary: £25,092 - £28,719 pro-rata

An opportunity has arisen for a Lecturer in Travel & Tourism. The main purpose of the role is to deliver and teach on a range of Travel and Tourism courses. You must have a relevant degree, ideally in Tourism and will have or be willing to work towards an appropriate teaching qualification within a specified timeframe.

Lecturer in Plumbing — Ref: P0231

Salary: £25,092 - £32,898 (depending on skills and experience)

The ideal candidate will have current knowledge and experience of the Building Services Industry and have a relevant trade qualification in plumbing. The successful candidate will have or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Sport — Ref: SES01

£19.74 to £28.28 per hour including holiday component

We are looking to recruit an hourly paid Lecturer for Sport to prepare, deliver, assess and teach on a range of courses, including BTEC National in Sports Science. The applicant will have a Sports Science or Sports related degree and be able to coach on a range of sporting activities.

Hourly Paid Lecturers/Reviewing Officer/Assessors — Ref: SES02

£19.74 to £28.28 per hour including holiday component

We are looking to recruit hourly paid Gas Trainers, Gas Assessors and Reviewing Officers/Assessors for Engineering and Welding and Lecturers in Plumbing and Mechanical Engineering. The successful candidates will have current knowledge and experience in their specialist field and a relevant trade qualification.

Aim-Higher Co-ordinator — Ref: MPR01

(Maternity Cover - 30 hours per week, term-time) Salary: £17,861 - £22,907 pro-rata

The successful candidate will arrange, develop and deliver activities which will increase aspiration and awareness of opportunities in Higher Education and progression routes amongst learners currently enrolled at MidKent College and to lead in the support offered to learners with their applications into HE through the UCAS process.

Closing date: Friday, 16 January 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer

Saint George's Church of England School

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 533844
ACTING HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

TEACHING ASSISTANT

KS3 Pts 7–11 (£13,959-£15,826 (pro-rata) £9,551-£10,828 (actual)) 30 hours per week / Term Time Only + 5 days (39 weeks)

Applicants will need to have a good relationship with children and be able to demonstrate good classroom management.

The appointment is subject to List 99 & CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email hariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Candidates will be invited for interview week commencing 5 January.

Closing Date : Wednesday 17 December 2008

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JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

POWERED BY KOS MEDIA

St Edmund's Catholic School

Old Charlton Road,
Dover, Kent CT16 2QB

required for January 2009

TEACHER OF HISTORY

Able to teach up to GCSE History as part of a Team involved with PBL in Humanities at KS3
Apply in writing, enclosing a C.V. to Mr C. J. Atkin (Headteacher)
Closing date : 19th December 2008
Tel: 01304 201551 Fax: 01304 202226 Email: office@st-edmunds-dover.kent.sch.uk
An enhanced CRB disclosure check will be required

Also

ICT NETWORK MANAGER

37 hours per week - Full Time. Salary according to experience and qualifications. (£23,583 - £26,159 per annum)
Apply in writing as above

CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT

Your Skills **Our Vision**

NHS
Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Sheerness to Dungeness, Ashford to Ramsgate, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS – and we put them at the heart of everything we do. All our staff work hard every day to improve health and well-being for the local community, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services, both directly and through commissioning.

As one of Kent's largest employers, we aim to employ and train a world-class workforce capable of meeting our many challenges. In return for your skills and commitment we offer wide-ranging staff benefits including real investment in personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and in-house discounts.

Why not join us?

STAFF BENEFITS PACKAGE

- Final salary pension scheme
- Occupational sickness benefit
- Lease car scheme for eligible staff
- Occupational health service
- Childcare
- Enhanced maternity pay
- Enhanced paternity pay
- Enhanced adoption pay
- Flexible Working Policies
- Extensive Training Programs
- Long service awards
- In-house discounts & external benefits

SELECTION OF CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

ADMIN AND CLERICAL/DOMESTIC SERVICES

Job Title: Domestic Assistant
Salary: £12,517 to £13,617 pa
Band: 1
Hours: 12
Location: Victoria Hospital, Deal
Ref: 767-EHS661
Closing date: 19/12/08

Job Title: Porter / Domestic
Salary: £12,517 to £13,617 pa
Band: 1
Hours: 37.5
Location: Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Herne Bay
Ref: 767-EHS663
Closing date: 19/12/08

Job Title: Service Level Agreement Manager
Salary: £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Band: 7
Hours: 37.5
Location: Templar House, Ashford
Ref: 767-ECC673
Closing date: 19/12/08

Job Title: Domestic Assistant
Salary: £12,517 to £13,617 pa
Band: 1
Hours: 17
Location: Protea House, Dover
Ref: 767-EHS662
Closing date: 19/12/08

Job Title: Catering Assistant
Salary: £12,517 to £13,617 pa
Band: 1
Hours: 24
Location: Sheppey Community Hospital
Ref: 767-EHS664
Closing date: 19/12/08

Job Title: Clerical Officer
Salary: £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Band: 2
Hours: 37.5
Location: Loan Equipment Store, Canterbury
Ref: 767-ECS697
Closing date: As soon as a sufficient amount of applicants received.

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY REGISTERED

Job Title: Community Nurse
Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Ashford Comm Offices
Ref: 767-ASH253
Closing date: 22/12/08

Job Title: Tissue Viability Nurse X 2
Salary: £37,106 - £44,527 pa
Band: 8a
Hours: 37.5
Location: Folkestone
Ref: 767-EIC698
Closing date: 29/12/2008

Job Title: Community Children's Nurse
Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Children' Assessment Centre, Kent & Canterbury Hospital
Ref: 767-ECC655
Closing date: 31/12/2008

Job Title: Community Children's Nurse - Clinical Deputy
Salary: £37,106 to £44,527 pa
Band: 8a
Hours: 37.5
Location: Children' Assessment Centre, Kent & Canterbury Hospital
Ref: 767-ECC656
Closing date: 31/12/2008

Job Title: Public Health Screening Nurse x 2
Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 22.5
Location: Dover
Ref: 767-ECC688
Closing date: 05/01/2009

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Job Title: Speech and Language Therapist
Salary: £29,091 - £38,352
Band: 7
Hours: 18.75
Location: Old Railway School, Ashford
Ref: 767-ASH252
Closing date: 21/12/08

Job Title: Paediatric Occupational Therapist
Salary: £29,091 - £38,352
Band: 7
Hours: 37.5
Location: Old Railway School, Ashford
Ref: 767-ASH251
Closing date: 21/12/08

Job Title: Occupational Therapist (Learning Disabilities)
Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 18.75
Location: Brook House, Chestfield
Ref: 767-ASH246
Closing date: 05/01/2009

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL SERVICES

Job Title: Health Care Assistant
Salary: £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Band: 3
Hours: 8
Location: Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone
Ref: 767-ASH249
Closing date: 22/12/08

Job Title: Health Care Assistant
Salary: £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Band: 3
Hours: 12
Location: Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone
Ref: 767-ASH248
Closing date: 22/12/08

Job Title: Health Promotion Practitioner
Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitfield Court, Dover
Ref: 767-ECC690
Closing date: 31/12/2008

Job Title: Health Promotion Practitioner
Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitfield Court, Dover
Ref: 767-ECC691
Closing date: 31/12/2008

For further information and to apply, please visit www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk or call 01227 866450. We are an equal opportunities employer Committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

Career Opportunities

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Coordinator of Work Based Learning and other Part-time Motor Vehicle programmes including IMI ATA **CO106**

37 hrs per week, salary starting £27,209 per annum

Coordinator Animal Care and Land Based Studies **08/156**

37 hrs per week, salary starting £27,209 per annum

Coordinator Fabrication and Welding **08/157**

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting £27,209 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Fabrication and Welding **01/103**

18.5 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

(Please note the above two posts could be combined to become one full time post.)

Lecturer Mechanical Engineering **06/59**

18.5 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Lecturer HE Building Surveying **07/28**

9.25 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Key Skills ICT - Health & Social Care **02/52**

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Key Skills - Building Services **06/175**

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Key Skills - Automotive Engineering **07/30**

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

Supply Student Mentors **S/SM**

Various hours available , salary starting £16,914 pro rata per annum

Project Co-ordinator - College Redevelopment **08/117**

37 hrs per week, salary starting £18,963 per annum

Supply Trainer Demonstrators - Electronic & Engineering **S/TD/EE**

Various hours available, salary starting £18,963 pro rata per annum

Trainer Demonstrator - Mechanical or Electronic Engineering **TD1**

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting £18,963 pro rata per annum

Trainer Demonstrator - Automotive Engineering **TD4**

37 hrs per week, salary starting £18,963 per annum

Trainer Demonstrator - Wood Occupations **04/148**

37 hrs per week, salary starting £18,963 per annum

Labourer - Wood Work Shop **RA4**

37 hrs per week, salary starting £15,085 per annum

Curriculum Support Assistant - Engineering & Construction **08/148**

37 hrs per week, 40 weeks term time, salary starting £18,963 pro rata per annum

Curriculum Support Assistant - Health, Public Services and Care **08/131**

2 x 18.5 or 1 x 37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting £18,963 pro rata per annum

Learning Resources Assistant **LRCA1**

37 hrs per week, salary starting £15,085 per annum

Pre 16 Learning Support **07/67**

37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting £16,914 pro rata per annum Fixed term for one year.

Pre 16 Learning Support **08/159**

37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting £16,914 pro rata per annum Fixed term ending 31 August 2010

Database and Reporting Team Administrator **DBRA2**

37 hrs per week, salary starting £18,963 per annum

Supply Curriculum Support Assistant - Health, Public Services and Care **S/CSA**

Various hours available , salary starting £18,375 pro rata per annum

Online Exams Assistant **08/158**

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting £15,085 pro rata per annum.
Fixed term post for one year

Supply Maintenance Carpenter **S/MC**

37 hrs per week Salary starting £16,914 per annum (temporary fixed term contract)

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Positive About Disabled People

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to City Centre
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- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

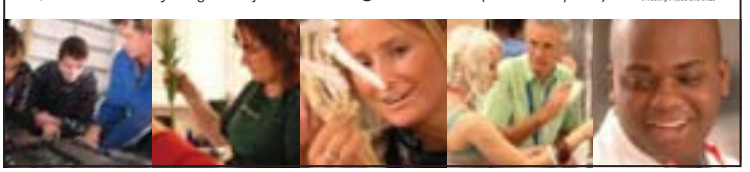
Investor in People

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 22nd December 2008 at 12 noon

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CAPITA EDUCATION RESOURCING (Agy)

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Accountancy

PURCHASE LEDGER ASSISTANT

Chatham
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 19 December 2008
To apply/more information:
Fuji Seal Europe Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email jobs@uk.fujiseal.com

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Full Time Administrator

Canterbury
Salary: £12,000 to £14,000 pa
Closing Date: Tuesday 23rd December 2008
To apply/more information:
Jeanette
AMACSports Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 831840
Email
jeanette@amacsports.co.uk

Receptionist

Rochester
Salary: £6,000 pa
Closing Date: 19 Decmeber
To apply/more information:
Rebound
Quoting Job Ref: KSTC12
Tel: 01634 823322
Email Kairen.stammers@gsiglobal.com

Education, Teacher, School

Kent County Council

To learn about teaching careers in Kent, visit
www.kent-teach.com

Clerk to the Governors/ Project Officer

Folkestone
Salary: £24,000 pa + benefits
Closing Date: 9th January 2009
To apply/more information:
Gabrielle Wilson
Marlowe Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 212048
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Coordinator Animal Care and Land Based Studies

Canterbury
Salary: £27,209 pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/156
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Coordinator Curriculum Support Assistant - Engineering and Construction

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/148
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Database and Reporting Team Administrator

Canterbury
Salary: £18,9
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: DBRA2
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Learning Resources Assistant

Canterbury
Salary: £15,085
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: LRCA1
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer HE Building Surveying

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/28
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Key Skills - Automotive Engineering

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/30
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Key Skills - Building Services

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 06/175
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Key Skills - Health and Social Care

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 02/52
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Mechanical Engineering

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 06/59
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Online Exams Assistant

Canterbury
Salary: £15,085 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/158
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Pastoral Support Manager

Aylesford
Salary: Kent Scheme Grade 6 - Points 17 - 20 pro rata
Closing Date: 7th January 2009
Term time only 8.00 - 4.00pm Kent Scheme Grade 6 - Points 17 - 20 pro rata (£18,288 - £20,061 which equates to £15,082 - £16,544 pro rata) Required for January 2009 To support the pupils of the School and assistant in removing some of the barriers to learning. To request an information pack and application form, please contact Jill McKenna, on (01622) 714304. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Check via the Criminal Records Bureau.
To apply/more information:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 714304
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Pre 16 Learning Support

Canterbury
Salary: £16,914 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/67
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Pre 16 Learning Support

Canterbury
Salary: £16,914 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon pack please visit
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/159
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Project Co-ordinator - College Redvelopment

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/117
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

School Secretary

Ashford
Salary: Kent Pay Scheme Band 5
To apply/more information:
Miss Baxter
Sellinge Primary School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 812073
Email headteacher@sellindge-ashford.kent.sch.uk

Supply Curiculum Support Assistant - Health, Public Services and Care

Canterbury
Salary: £18,375 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/CSA
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Maintenance Carpenter

Canterbury
Salary: £16,914 pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/MC
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Student Mentors

Canterbury
Salary: £16,914 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/SM
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Trainer Demonstrators - Electronic and Engineering

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/TD/EE
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

TEACHER OF HISTORY

Dover
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 19th December 2008

Highways - District of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(various roads, Ashford) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Ashford from as described in column 1 of the schedule to this order on or after 29 December 2008 for an estimated period of three months or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order

Specified Road	Length of Road Affected	Alternative Routes
Maidstone Road, Ashford	Approach to roundabout jct Fougeres Way	For HGV's: M20 and A20 For Light Traffic: Sandyhurst Lane, A251, A251 Trinity Road, A20 Fougeres Way (20:00 to midnight)
Ruckinge Road Ham Street, Ashford	The Street to Carters Wood	A2070 Romney Road, Hamstreet Road and Marsh Road (19:30 to 05:00)
Goldwell Lane, Great Chart	Vitters Oak Lane to Purchase	A28 Ashford Road, Sandy Lane, Old Surrenden Road, Park Lane and Etchden Road (19:30 start)

This order will come into force on Monday 29 December 2008, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(High Halden Lane, High Halden) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new water mains, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Halden Lane, High Halden between the junctions of Biddenden Road and High Halden Road on 15 December 2008 for an estimated period of eight days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A262 Biddenden Road, A28 Ashford Road, Shawlands Lane and Thurstons Lane.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Radfall Road, Chestfield) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Radfall Road, Chestfield from bend at Gypsy Corner on or after 29 December 2008 for an estimated period of three months or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order

Specified Road	Length of Road Affected	Alternative Routes
Radfall Road, Chestfield	Bend at Gypsy Corner	Blean Hill, Tile Kiln Hill, Whitstable Road, St Thomas Hill, Forty Acres Road and Beaconsfield Road (to be supplemented by Tyler Hill Road and Calais Hill). Thornden Wood Road closed at junction with diversion along Molehill Road, Chestfield Road and then South Street, Thanet Way, Clapham Hill, Pean Hill, Honey Hill and Blean Common.

This order will come into force on Monday 29 December 2008, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CYCLE TRACKS - SHOLDEN to DEAL) ORDER 2009

In connection with the provision of the Sholden to Deal cycle route, the Kent County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 3 of the Cycle Tracks Act 1984 has made an Order to convert to cycle track the footpath ED56 specified in the Schedule to this Order. The Order was made on 12th December 2008.

The effect of the Cycle Tracks Order will be that the lengths of footpath to which the Order relates will become highways which, for the purpose of the Highways Act 1980, are highways maintainable at public expense and over which the public will have a right of way on pedal cycles (other than pedal cycles which are motor vehicles) and a right of way on foot.

The footpath designated as cycle track by this Order is as follows:

Footpath No	Description
ED56	From its junction with London Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 420m to Grantham Avenue.

A copy of the made Cycle Tracks Order, together with copies of relevant maps may be examined at Kent Highway Services at, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD and at the Dover District Council offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

If you have any observations, representations or objections to the made Order you should send details in writing to the Local Transportation and Development Manager, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD no later than 12th January 2009.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(TOWER HAMLETS, DOVER) (20 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2008

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under 1, 2(4) and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 20 mph speed limit in Tower Hamlets Estate on the following roads:

Amselm Road	Entire Length	Noah's Ark Road	Entire Length
Astor Avenue	Entire Length	North Road	Entire Length
Chamberlain Road	Entire Length	Northbourne Avenue	Entire Length
Curzon Road	Entire Length	Odo Road	Entire Length
Devonshire Road	Entire Length	Priory Hill	Entire Length
Dickson Road	Entire Length	South Road	Entire Length
Douglas Road	Entire Length	St Bartholemews Close	Entire Length
East Street	Entire Length	Tower Hamlets Street	Entire Length
Edred Road	Entire Length	Tower Hill	Entire Length
Ethelbert Road	Entire Length	Tower Street	Entire Length
Goschen Road	Entire Length	West Street	Entire Length
Hamilton Road	Entire Length	Widred Road	Entire Length
Harbour View Road	Entire Length	Wyndham Road	Entire Length
High Meadow	Entire Length	Tower Hamlets Road	From the junction with East Street to the junction with St Bartholemews Close
Lowther Road	Entire Length		

This Order was previously advertised as THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (TOWER HAMLETS, DOVER) (20 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2007.

The Order was signed on 12 December 2008 and will come into force on 15 December 2008.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford between 9am and 5pm and at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT No 11) ORDER 2008

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and 4(2), 32(1), 35(1) 46 and 46B and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road to facilitate a traffic calming scheme in Tower Hamlets:

EDRED ROAD NORTHBOURNE ROAD
GOSCHEN ROAD SOUTH ROAD
LOWTHER ROAD WYNDHAM ROAD
NOAH'S ARK ROAD

This Order was previously advertised as THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (DOVER) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES (AMENDMENT No 20) ORDER 2007

This Order was signed on 12 December 2008 and will come into force on 15 December 2008.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford between 9am and 5pm and at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(various roads, Dover) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Dover as described in column 1 of the schedule to this order on or after 29 December 2008 for an estimated period of three months or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order.

Specified Road	Length of Road Affected	Alternative Routes
Crabble Hill/ILondon Road, Dover	Mangers Lane to Pilgrims Way including Crabble Road	Buckland Avenue, Barton Road, Frith Road, A256 Maison Dieu Road, A20 Townwall Street, A2 Jubilee Way, A2, A256 Whitfield Hill. (20:00 start)
Manor Road, Deal	Homestead Court to London Road	Mongeham Road, St Richards Road and Mill Hill (08:00 - 18:00)
Dover Road, Ringwould	B2057 to 315	A258, A256, A2 (20:00 to midnight)
Dover Road, Walmer	200 - 190	Station Road, Court Road and Salisbury Road (20:00 to midnight)

This order will come into force on Monday 29 December 2008, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HOSPITAL ROAD HOLLINGBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on Hospital Road Hollingbourne outside of Warren Wood Cottage. This order will come into effect on or after Monday 15th December 2008 for a period of up to 7 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for eastbound traffic via Ashford Road, Greenway Court Road, Hospital Road and for Westbound traffic vice versa.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary to provide a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Steve Bicknell on 0800 083052345

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HOSPITAL ROAD HOLLINGBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on Hospital Road Hollingbourne. This order will come into effect on or after Monday15th December 2008 for a period of up to 7 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for southbound traffic via Ashford Road. Greenway court Road Northbound traffic vice versa.

Steve Bicknell of Murphy's apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary to supply a new electrical supply outside and opposite Warren. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact Steve Bicknell on 07920 150789.

Highways - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(various roads, Shepway) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Shepway from as described in column 1 of the schedule to this order on or after 29 December 2008 for an estimated period of three months or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order

Specified Road	Length of Road Affected	Alternative Routes
Dover Road	Dover Road to Tontine Street	Southern Way, The Tram Road, Harbour Street and Tontine Street
Castle Hill Avenue	Approach to roundabout junction Sandgate Road	Bouverie Road West and Sandgate Road

This order will come into force on Monday 29 December 2008, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - Borough of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(various roads, Swale) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageways Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Swale from as described in column 1 of the schedule to this order on or after 29 December 2008 for an estimated period of three months or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order.

Specified Road	Length of Road Affected	Alternative Routes
Key Street roundabout, Swale	Complete roundabout	Milton Road, Mill Way, Saffron Way, Grovehurst Road, A249
Crown Quay Lane, Sittingbourne	A2 St Michaels Road to B2006 Eurolink Way	Eurolink Way, Milton Road, St Michaels Road (20:00 start)

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

This order will come into force on Monday 29 December 2008, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(St Johns Avenue, Ramsgate) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because junction modification works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on St Johns Avenue, Ramsgate from its junction with A256 Haine Road to its junction with Stirling Way heading eastbound only on or after 5 January 2009 for an estimated period of 1 week or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A256 Haine Road, B2050 Manston Road, Princess Margaret Avenue, Auckland Avenue and St Johns Avenue.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Princes Street Margate) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Scaffolding and crane works works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Princes Street Margate from Between the junctions with Cecil Street and Addington Street on or after 29 December 2008 for an estimated period of 2 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Cecil Street, Hawley Square and Addington Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(various roads, Thanet) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Thanet as described in column 1 of the schedule to this order on or after 29 December 2008 for an estimated period of three months or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order.

Specified Road	Length of Road Affected	Alternative Routes
Canterbury Road, Westgate	London bound junction with Cambourne Avenue, Coast bound junction with Church Street	Minster Road, Shottendane Road, Manston Road and Park Lane (20:00 to mid-night)
Albion Road, St Peters	Junction with Church Street	Beacon Road, Grange Road, Callis Court Road and Albion Road. Also High Street St Peter's, Sowell Street and Albion Road (20:00 to mid-night)

This order will come into force on Monday 29 December 2008, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

PUBLIC NOTICE

Medway Council, as local authority (LA), is formally consulting on the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Kent for the school year 2010/11.

We are consulting with admissions authorities, diocesan boards, groups with an interest in the local area, and parents/guardians of children aged 2 to 16-years-old who live in Medway.

The LA's consultation will run from **10, December 2008** and the closing date will be **4, February 2009**.

The above groups are invited to view the admissions arrangements at: **www.medway.gov.uk/schooladmissions**

A link to a response form is available on the Medway Council website. Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet you may write, requesting a printed copy of arrangements and a response form, to: **Chris McKenzie, Head of School Organisation and Student Services, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4TR**

Each academy, foundation and voluntary aided school is also required to consult with the above groups on their proposed admission arrangements.

Details of the admissions policies for these schools will be posted on the website as and when they are sent to the LA, and will also be available from each school in question.

Any responses to the consultation on admission arrangements for academy, foundation or voluntary aided schools should be returned to the chair of governors of those institutions, care of the school in question, by their closing date, which must be no later than 1, March 2009.

Medway Council

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Under the Council's Constitution, each month the Leader of the Council will prepare a forward plan containing details of the key decisions to be made by the Cabinet during the four month period following its publication. Each plan will contain a list of documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration in relation to the key decisions on the plan, although other documents not listed in the plan may also be considered. The dates when the forward plans will be published are 17 December 2008 and 16 January, 13 February, 17 March, 16 April, 15 May, 16 June, 17 July, 17 August, 16 September, 16 October, 16 November and 17 December 2009.

Copies of the Council's constitution and of each forward plan will be available for inspection by members of the public free of charge during normal office hours at the Council's principal office at Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ and at Tonbridge Castle. The forward plan is also viewable on the Council's website.

Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4LZ

David Hughes
Chief Executive

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HURLEY'S SECURITY LIMITED
(Company Number 04751901)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Benedict Mackenzie LLP, 5-6 The Courtyard, East Park, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 6AG, on Monday 22 December 2008, at 11.00 am for the purposes provided for in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. For the purposes of voting, Proof of Debt and Proxy Forms intended to be used at the meeting must be lodged at the registered office of the company, now situated at the offices of Benedict Mackenzie LLP, 5-6 The Courtyard, East Park, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6AG, not later than noon on the business day before. Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that Graham P Petersen and Julie P Vahey of Benedict Mackenzie LLP, 5-6 The Courtyard, East Park, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 6AG, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the above company and will, during the period before the day of the meeting, furnish creditors with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require. Resolutions to be taken at the aforementioned Meeting may include a Resolution specifying the terms on which the joint liquidators are to be remunerated. The meeting may also receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meeting.
Dated this 5th day of December 2008
Justin Scott Earl, Director

DIRECT HEALTH 2000 LIMITED
Company No. 3614292

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Hewitt Allison Building, Clayfield Industrial Estate, Tickhill Road, Doncaster DN4 8QG on 5th January 2009 at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
The Resolutions at the meeting of creditors may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Joint Liquidators are to be remunerated.
The meeting may receive information about, or be asked to approve, the cost of preparing the Statement of Affairs and convening the meeting.
Pursuant to section 98(2) of the Act, lists of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, at the offices of CBA, Insolvency Practitioners, 39 Castle Street, Leicester, LE1 5WN, on the two business days prior to the day of the Meeting.
By Order of the Board
Dated: 28th November 2008
Sarah Madeline Dean, Chairman

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/08/03521/LB – Wateringbury Station Bow Road Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5EA – Southeastern Railway are applying for Listed Building Application: Erection of two replacement waiting shelters. Reason: LB CA

TM/08/03563/CA – 39 Old Road Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5PL – Mrs E Chandler is applying for Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of existing dwelling. Reason: CA

TM/08/03459/FL – Stone House Addington Green Addington West Malling Kent ME19 5BB – Mrs Liz Covill is applying for two rear dormer windows. Reason: CA

TM/08/03311/FL & TM/08/03312/LB – 62 High Street West Malling Kent ME19 6LU – Public House Collection Ltd are applying for new shopfront and internal alterations. Reason: LB CA

TM/08/03420/FL – 310 Tonbridge Road Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5PA – Mr D Wilson-Green is applying for roof extension to create first floor accommodation to change existing bungalow to chalet bungalow. Reason: CA

TM/08/03471/LB – Yotes Court Mereworth Road Mereworth Maidstone Kent ME18 5JQ – Mr and Mrs Ricci are applying for Listed Building Application: Re-arrangement of second floor staircase to attic. Reason: LB CA

Reasons for the case being publicised:
LB Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Do It Online" and follow the instructions for "Planning Applications" online. You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below).

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.
Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 4 January 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

14 December 2008

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LION ESTATES LONDON LIMITED
(Company Number 05521273)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Salisbury House, 31 Finsbury Circus, London, EC2M 5SQ, on 19 December 2008, at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. The purposes of the meeting are to receive a statement of affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidation committee. The resolutions to be taken at this meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the liquidator is to be remunerated, and the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at Sherlock House, 73 Baker Street, London W1U 6RD, on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
Dated: 2 December 2008
By Order of the Board
T A Larter, Director

THOMPSON BUILDERS (DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION) LIMITED
Company Number 05584973

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, on 14 January 2009, at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Proxy forms to be used for the purposes of the above Meeting must be lodged, accompanied by statements of claim, at the registered office of the Company situated at Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day prior to the date of the Meeting.
Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Andrew Tate of Abbott Fielding, Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the above Company, and will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated 4 December 2008
By Order of the Board
Ian Woodcraft, Chairman

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Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 884555

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Closing Date: 15th December 2008
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Toyota's 'brain cell' technology shows in new IQ

SMART proved the safety of its city two-seater in graphic style by making a TV advert showing the car swatted by a demolition site wrecking ball.

Toyota has yet to announce such desperate measures to promote its new IQ baby car, but is only too aware that buyers need reassurance about crash protection on the tiniest models.

However, we can rest assured the world's number one car brand will have given this more than a passing thought after investing so much intelligence – and justifying the IQ's title – in the newcomer, due in January.

Safety features include ABS and braking aids plus stability and traction control, while the small but robust bodywork is designed to disperse impact forces away from the passenger cell.

By way of insurance though, this car also has 360-degree interior protection with nine airbags as standard, including the world's first rear window curtain shield airbag.

By **STEVE LOADER**

Perhaps with perfection in mind, Toyota designers have also sculpted this potential city star to reduce risk of injury to pedestrians.

Toyota claims to have created 'six degrees of innovation' to build what is (just about) a four-seater within three metres and just a few centimetres longer than the previous favourite for compact packaging, the Smart (2,695mm).

'Six degrees' amounts to pretty much a re-design of how cars are made, with the main innovations being re-arranged seating, a mid-ships underfoor fuel tank, compacting the heater/air con by 20 per cent – after all, the car is smaller – and shrinking the engine compartment by re-locating the steering mechanism and differential.

Most noticeable, though, are the staggered front seats allowed by the smaller engine compartment, though still no easy task due to collision and safety requirements.

As a result, the front passenger sits slightly forward of the driver, allowing an adult passenger to then sit behind, while the rear seat behind the driver is really only suitable for a child – the IQ is at best '3+1'.

Before dismissing it as a city car though, most buyers need to recognise this layout could actually meet their every need, with the seat behind the driver mostly serving as the boot.

Already tipped for cult status, Toyota is also pitching it slightly upmarket, from £9,495 with a high standard spec: 15-inch alloys, heated/electrically adjustable door mirrors, air con and six-speaker sound system with MP3 player/auxiliary socket, plus a full complement of driver aids including vehicle stability and traction controls.

There will also be the custom packs now expected on trendy small cars, but the big bonus is how buyers start saving money immediately through the miserly 1.0-litre petrol engine averaging well over 60mpg, while CO2 emissions of 99g/km make it exempt from road tax.

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INSIDE



Wilmoths' Gallic flair Page 74



Jaguar's luxury X-Type Page 75



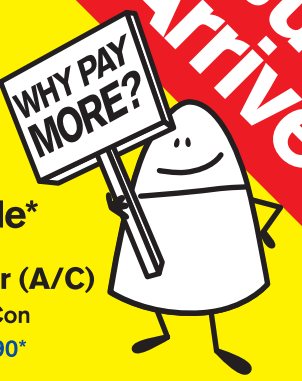
Style icon goes diesel Pages 78-79

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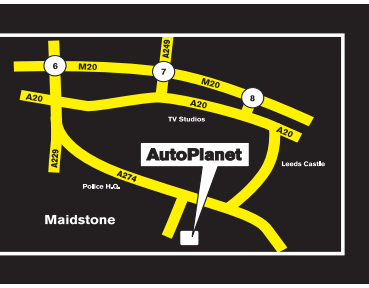


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SEAT Approved used car selection

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08 08 IBIZA 1.4 Stylance 3dr, Emocion Red, climate, tinted glass, alloys, 7,285	£7,250
08 08 IBIZA 1.2 Freerider 3dr, Candy White, auto air con, alloys, 4,600m	£7,495
07 07 IBIZA 1.4 Stylance 5dr Automatic, Black Magic, climate, 17,500m	£7,995
08 08 IBIZA 1.4 SE 5dr Hatchback, Black Magic, alloys, air con, CD, 4,000m	£9,995

LEON

06 06 LEON 1.6 Reference 5dr, Emocion Red, air con, alloys, 26,464m	£7,995
05 55 LEON 1.6 Stylance 5dr, Zenith Grey, 16" alloys, climate, cruise, 30,080m	£8,995
07 57 LEON 1.6 Sport 5dr, Silver, Bluetooth, parking sensors, alloys, 2,385m	£9,495
08 57 LEON 2.0 FSI Reference Sport 5dr, Silver, 18" alloys, bodykit, 24,650m	£9,995
07 56 LEON 1.9 TDi Stylance 5dr, Zenith Grey, climate, Bluetooth, 13,575m	£10,495
07 07 LEON 1.9 TDi Stylance 5dr, Silver, air con, tinted glass, alloys, 9,754m	£10,995
08 57 LEON 2.0 TDi DPF 5dr, Zenith Grey, Bluetooth, climate, alloys, 14,000m	£13,495
08 08 LEON 2.0 TDi DPF 5dr, Candy White, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, 11,000m	£16,495

ALHAMBRA

06 56 ALHAMBRA 2.0 TDi Reference 5dr MPV, Reflex Silver, climate control, front fog lights, electric mirrors, immobiliser, 23,109m	£10,495
07 07 AHAMBRA 1.9 TDi PD Stylance Automatic 5dr MPV, Reflex Silver, 16" alloys, climate control, cruise control, tinted glass, 7,775 m	£13,995

ALTEA

06 06 ALTEA 1.9 TDi Reference Sport 5dr MPV, Platinum Grey, air con, 46,875m	£7,495
06 06 ALTEA 1.6 Reference Sport 5dr MPV, Blue, air con, alloys, 20,788m	£7,995
06 06 ALTEA 1.6 Reference Sport 5dr MPV, Lluvia Blue, air con, 15,650m	£8,494
05 55 ALTEA 2.0 TDi Sport 5dr MPV, Grey, climate, alloys, cruise, 28,965m	£8,995
07 07 ALTEA 1.9 TDi Reference Sport 5dr MPV, Black Magic, air con, 13,525m	£9,695
08 08 ALTEA 1.9 TDi Reference Sport 5dr, Silver, parking sensors, 10,500m	£10,995
08 08 ALTEA 2.0 Freetrack 4 5dr, Grey, leather, Bluetooth, climate, 8,000m	£13,995

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06 56 TOLEDO 1.9 TDi PD Stylance 5dr, Platinum Grey, climate, alloys, 29,425m	£8,995

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GROWTH BUSINESS: The spacious seven-seat Citroën C4 Grand Picasso is already established as a best-seller for Wilmoths' all-new Maidstone dealership

Wilmoths' high-five with Citroën

by STEVE LOADER

CITROEN specialist Wilmoths has opened an all-new dealership in Maidstone to add to four others across Kent and Sussex.

While some motor groups have grown by developing multi-branded operations, Wilmoths has concentrated on Citroën – it already has Kent branches at Ashford and Folkestone.

Group managing director James Wilmoth said he preferred his staff to specialise and continually improve their knowledge of the innovative French marque, bringing benefits in customer care and satisfaction.

"'Jack of all trades – master of none' is not a philosophy that I endorse," he said when asked why his dealerships specialise rather than generalise in recession-hit times when most businesses would look to take every penny on offer.

He said: "I truly believe that today's switched-on consumer sees through this and that, by offering a product and service that we are passionate about, committed to and fully understand, is why our dealerships are prospering and expanding while others are cutting their overhead costs or closing down completely."

Wilmoths' new Citroën branch replaces the former Dutton Forshaw Citroën in the county town and has taken over a former Hyundai/Daihatsu dealership on Sutton Road in the Park Wood area, but has been staffed by experienced Citroën staff.

General sales manager Kelvin Clayton – formerly in charge of Wilmoths Citroën in Folkestone – has some 20 years' experience with the brand and is delighted with the scope of the new premises.

He said: "We have had to do a lot of work to the site and which included knocking the two Hyundai and Daihatsu new car showrooms into one, but that has given us space to display 15 new cars under cover. We also have access to some 250 used Citroëns across the group which has already given us some good sales despite being open just a few weeks.

"Despite efforts to talk business down, people are still buying new cars too. They want more for their hard-earned cash though and Citroën is a good value-for-money brand where they can, say, buy an upmarket model like the C4 Picasso (people carrier) or new C5 saloon for £18,000, where a rival brand might charge £22,000."

Sales for the new branch so far have been a healthy mix of economy models such as the C1 and C3 hatchbacks, MPVs like the C4 Picasso five and seven-seat range and the new Berlingo Multispace MPV.

Asked whether the new branch would be holding an official launch event, Kelvin said: "No. We know our customers would rather see savings on the car they buy than spent on wine and cheese for a launch."

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08 08	EPICA LS TD Grey Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking	£11995	£1000
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08 08	TACUMA 1.6 SX MPV Denim Met, A/C, E/Windows, Delivery Miles	£5495	£1000
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06 06	TOURAN 1.6 FSI 5 SDR 7ST Grey Met, A/C, E/Windows	£6995	£1000
05 55	PASSAT 2.0 FSI SE 4DR Green/Black Met, A/C, Cruise, E/Windows	£6995	£750
04 54	PASSAT TDI HL 130ps 4DR Black Met, Climate, Alloys, E/Windows, Parking Sensors, Multi CD	£6495	£1000
04 54	PASSAT TDI HL 100ps 4DR AUTOMATIC Blue Met, Climate, Alloys, E/Windows, Parking Sensors, Multi CD	£6495	£1000
04 04	PASSAT TDI HL 100ps 4DR Denim Met, Climate, Alloys, E/Windows, Parking Sensors, Multi CD	£7995	£1000
05 55	GOLF SDI 5DR Blue Met, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, CD	£7995	£750
02 02	GOLF GT TDI 150PS 5DR Grey Met, Climate, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking, Multi CD	£7495	£500

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04 04	FORD GALAXY ZETEC TDI 7SEAT Silver Met, A/C, Cruise, E/Windows, Parking Sensors, Multi CD, Alloys	£10495	£1000
06 56	NISSAN MICRA C+C ESSENZA CONV Latte Met, Climate, Alloys, E/Windows, Parking Sensors, Multi CD	£9995	£1000
05 55	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 CABRIO DYNAMIQUE Gold, Air Con, Panoramic Roof, Alloys, Electric Roof	£8995	£1000
07 07	VAUXHALL ASTRA SDR LIFE CDTI 5DR Silver Met, A/C, E/Windows	£7995	£1000
05 55	HYUNDI COUPE 1.6 S2 Red, Half Leather, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, Alloys, C/Locking	£6995	£395
06 06	CITROEN PICASSO HDI EXCLUSIVE Gold Met, Climate, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking	£6995	£750
05 57	PEUGEOT 206 SDR LOOK 1.4 Blue Met, A/C, PAS E/Windows	£6995	£395
07 07	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 CLUB A/C 3DR Silver, Electric Windows, Central Locking	£6995	NONE
04 54	MAZDA 3 SDR TS AUTO Blue Met, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, C/Locking	£6795	NONE
05 55	CITROEN C4 1.6 SX 5DR AUTO Green Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking	£5995	£500
05 55	RENAULT SCENIC AU DYNAMIQUE 1.6 AUTO Black Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking	£5995	£500
05 55	MITSUBISHI COLT 5DR 1.3 EQUIPPE Silver Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows	£5995	£250

PART EXCHANGE DIRECT

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03 53	DAEWOO NUBIRA 4DR 1.8 CDX Blue Met, Climate, PAS, E/Windows, Alloys	£2995	£495
04 54	KIA RIO SDR 1.5 LS+ Blue Met, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, Alloys	£3695	£495
09 W	VAUXHALL ASTRA SDR 1.6 CD Silver Met, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, Alloys	£3695	£495
01 Y	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SDR 1.6 SE Black Met, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, Alloys	£3995	£495
05 05	RENAULT KANGO MPV 1.2 AUTHENTIQUE Gloss blue, A/C, PAS	£4995	£250
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DrivingStats

- Jaguar X-Type 2.2 Diesel Sovereign saloon auto from £29,000
- Engine: 2.2-litre diesel developing 152bhp
- Transmission: six-speed auto (six-speed manual standard), driving front wheels.
- Performance: maximum speed 129mph, 0-62mph 9.9 seconds
- Economy: 41mpg
- CO2 Rating: 184g/km

'MODEST' really is the only way to describe the Jaguar X-Type's cosmetic upgrade.

With such a distinctive shape it would have been a foolish person who dared to do more.

That's no criticism, mind. Jaguar's smallest model is, essentially, a concentration of what the brand is all about, and you don't make dramatic changes overnight – if ever.

The compact executive market is fiercely competitive, but it's also populated by numerous clinically designed cars.

The X-Type does much to redress that balance with curves and nods to traditionally styled Jaguars from the past.

And in a bid to maintain the car's standing in the marketplace, Jaguar has opted for a considered refresh of its entry level model. Most noticeable is the car's new front bumper and grille – a more prominent affair and one that mirrors that of the revised flagship XJ.

The subtle theme continues inside, with the detailed changes amounting to an altogether more polished cabin experience.

It's the same cosy environment X-Type fans will be familiar with, and is an ambience heightened by the liberal use of leather and wood in the luxury Sovereign model tested here.

There is more to this revised X-Type than nice chairs and some wood though.

Being sensible for a moment, the rise in popularity of diesel power in this sector has led to everyone upping their game and the winning combination is diesel auto, so the refreshed X-Type line-up also brings a 2.2-litre diesel and optional six-speed auto gearbox.

Granted, there's been a diesel option for a while, but the self-shifting element has been lacking. Now it's here, and it's good to report that it works well.

So well, in fact, that you might not want to go back to something with three pedals again.

Ordinarily this feature wouldn't register that high on the approval scale, but an auto gearbox is a must for that silky smooth experience for which Jaguar is famous.

The combination of the engine's 152bhp and, crucially, its 270lb/ft of torque contribute greatly to the smooth gearshifts you experience at all speeds.

Around town the motor and 'box never feel anything but perfectly in sync with each other, while on the motorway the ability to cruise at a hushed pace yet kick down and overtake with ease always impresses.

In between those two states, the engine is supremely flexible and responsive when tasked with carrying you across twisty B-roads, and with the ability to change gear yourself the experience can be as involving as you like.

Back in the real world, owners and fleet managers will also like this particular X-Type because of its sensible economy and CO2 rating.

Posting 41mpg and 184g/km respectively, these are pretty respectable numbers considering this is the auto variant.

If you wish to offset those numbers with some luxury, the Sovereign version delivers climate control, alloy wheels, parking sensors, split-fold rear seats, a full compliment of airbags plus leather seats, an impressive audio unit and a touch screen sat-nav.

Teutonic refinement has its place, but the X-Type shows how luxury should be done.

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04 54 VW LUPO 1-4 E AUTO PAS SILVER 3DR 27000 MILES.....£4995
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(03) **HONDA CIVIC COUPE 1.7 VTEC AUTO**, 2 Dr, Met.Green, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/Windows, ABS, CD, Sunroof, 2 Owners, 21500 Miles, S/History, Ins. Grp 11 **£4995**

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(W) **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 CLUB AUTO**, 5 Dr, Red, Power Steering, C/Locking, Sunroof, 2 Owners, 21100 Miles, 5 Vauxhall Service Stamps, Ins. Gp 3 **£2995**

(51) **PROTON SATRA 1.5 LUX AUTO**, 3 Dr, Gold, Air Conditioning, Power Steering, C/Locking, E/F/Windows, Alloys, 46700 Miles, 5 Service Stamps, Ins. Gp 12 **£1995**

(55) **MAZDA 5 1.8 TS2**, 5 Dr, Met.Red, 7 Seats, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/Windows, ABS, CD, Alloys, Reversing Sensors, ONLY 12800 Miles, Ins. Grp 6, S/History **£7995**

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(53) **TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 T SPIRIT**, 3 Dr, Silver, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD Player, Sunroof, 2 Owners, 28000 Miles, S/History, Ins. Gp 4 **£4995**

(55) **NISSAN MICRA 1.4 SPORT+**, 3 Dr, Techno Grey, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, Alloys, 28900 Miles, Service History, Ins. Grp 4 **£4995**

(06) **DAIHATSU SIRION 1.3 S**, 5 Dr, Silver, Air Conditioning, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/Windows, ABS, CD, 23900 Miles, S/History, Ins. Grp 6, RFL £120 p.a., Up To 55 Mpg **£4995**

(54) **SUKUKI WAGON R+ 1.3 GL**, 5 Dr, Met.Green, Air Con, Power Steering, Remote C/Locking, E/F/Windows, ABS, Airbags, CD, 26000 Miles, S/History, Ins. Grp 3 **£4495**

(52) **NISSAN ALMERA TINO 1.8 SE**, 5 Dr, Silver, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD Player, Sunroof, 2 Owners, 38300 Miles, S/History, Ins. Grp 6 **£3695**

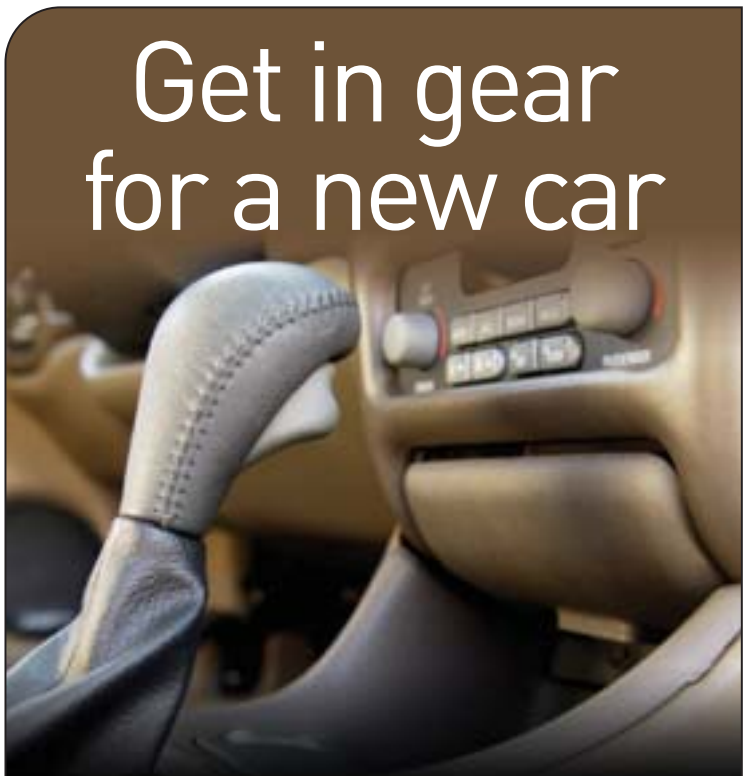
(51) **TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1.3 GLS**, 5 Dr, Gold, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/F/Windows, ABS, 1 Owner, 84250 Miles, Full Toyota S/History, Ins.Grp 4, Very Clean Example **£2995**

(51) **MAZDA 323 1.6 GSI**, 5 Dr, Met.Blue, Air Conditioning, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/F/Windows, ABS, Alloys, Sunroof, 68000 Miles, S/History, Ins. Grp 7 **£2695**

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04 04 **DISCOVERY 2.5 TD5 ES PREMIUM AUTO,** 1 owner, FSH, 7 seats, sat nav, a/c, immob, htd seats, leather, alloys. In met black **£10495**
02 52 **TOYOTA COLORADO 3.0 D4-D VX AUTO,** 55k, FSH, 8 seats, a/c, PAS, e/htd seats, e/s/roof, leather, alloys. In met red over silver **£8995**
02 52 **MERCEDES C220 CDI SE ELEGANCE AUTO EST, FSH, PAS,** cruise, ESP, immob, CD, leather, alloys. In met silver **£7995**
05 55 **MITSUBISHI L300 2.8 TWIN CAB AUTO,** 34k, a/c, PAS, alarm, e/windows,alloys. In met green over silver **£7695**
06 06 **FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI LX 130BHP 6SP,** 36k, FSH, a/c, PAS, CD,roof rails, e/windows. In met silver **£7495**
01 51 **RANGE ROVER 4.0 COUNTY AUTO EST,** 43k, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, cruise, r/c/locking, immob, CD, leather, alloys. In met red **£7295**
03 03 **LEXUS IS 200 2.0 SPORTCROSS EST**, 2 owners,FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, immob, CD, htd seats, e/s/roof, 1/2 leather,alloys. In met blue **£6995**
05 54 **VOLVO V50 2.0D S 6SP EST,** 1 owner, FSH, a/c, PAS, SIPS, r/c/locking, CD, htd seats, alloys. In met silver **£6695**
06 55 **FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI LX EST,** 1owner, a/c, ABS PAS, cruise, immob, CD, roof rails. In met pepper red **£6695**
05 55 **FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI LX EST,** 1 owner, 51k, FSH, a/c, immob, CD, e/windows. In met blue **£5995**
05 05 **RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0 DYNAMIQUE EST**, 36k, FSH, a/c, PAS, cruise, r/c/locking, immob, CD, e/wins,1/2 leather, alloys. In met grey **£5695**
04 54 **RENAULT ESPACE 1.9 DCI EXPRESSION MPV,** 1 owner, 7 seats, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, immob, CD, e/windows. I n pearl blue **£5695**
04 54 **PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDI S SW EST,** 56k, FSH, a/c, ABS, e/panoramic/s/roof, CD,roof rails. In met silver **£5695**
05 54 **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 ELEGANCE AUTO MPV,** 51k, FSH, a/c, PAS, immob, CD, e/windows, alloys. In met silver **£5695**
05 55 **CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 2.0 HDI DESIRE2,** 1 owner, 40k, FSH, a/c, immob, CD. In met grey **£5495**
05 05 **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.2 ELEGANCE MPV,** 1 owner, FSH, a/c, PAS, immob, CD, roof rails, alloys. In met silver **£5395**
02 02 **FORD GALAXY 2.3 ZETEC MPV,** 1 owner, 44k, FSH, 7 seats, a/c, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, roof rails, alloys. In met green **£4995**
02 52 **FORD GALAXY 2.8 GHIA AUTO MPV,** 53k, FSH, 6 seats, a/c, PAS, cruise, r/c/locking, immob, htd seats, roof rails, alloys. In met gold **£4695**
04 04 **FORD FOCUS C-MAX 1.8 LX MPV,** 41k, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, e/windows. In met silver **£4495**
03 03 **TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO 1.8 VVTI-I T3 MPV,** 51k, FSH, a/c, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, e/windows, alloys. In met green **£4495**
02 52 **RENAULT SCENIC 1.9 DCI RX4 PRIVILEGE,** 55k, FSH, a/c, r/c/locking, immob, CD, e/windows, alloys. In met light green **£4495**
03 03 **VAUXHALL FRONTERA 2.2 SPORT OLYMPUS 3DR,** 48k, FSH, a/c, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, detach hardtop, 1/2 leather, alloys. silver **£3995**
02 52 **ROVER 75 2.5 SE CONNOISSEUR AUTO EST,** 1 owner, 37K, SH, a/c, cruise, immob, hts seats, CD, leather, alloys. In met gold **£3995**
98 R **VOLVO V70 2.3 R EST, 2 owners,** SH, a/c, PAS, immob, CD, e/s/r, roof rails, alloys. In met blue **£3995**
01 51 **FREELANDER 2.0 TD4 GS HARDTOP**, 1 owner, 50k, FSH, PAS, s/roof, detachable hardtop, e/w, alloys. In met blue **£3995**
03 52 **DAEWOO TACUMA 2.0 CDX MPV,** 1 owner, 52k, SH, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, roof rails, e/windows, alloys. In met blue **£2495**

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03 03 **VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.0 TURBO 2DR CONVER,** 2 owners, 30k, one-off body kit, CD, 8x DVD screens, e/hood, leather, alloys.met blue **£10995**
04 54 **MAZDA RX-8 231 6sp COUPE,** FSH, 29k, immob, sat nav, e/seats, leather, alloys. In met black **£8995**
04 04 **MERCEDES C200 CDI SPORT COUPE 3DR,** 1owner, FSH, a/c, PAS, CD, cruise, immob, alloys. In met green **£8695**
04 54 **SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 WRX TURBO 4DR,** 50k, FSH, alarm, PRO-DRIVE PACK, htd seats, climate, tracker, leather, alloys. In met red **£8495**
04 04 **MAZDA MX-5 1.8 S-VT SPORT CONVERTIBLE,** 1 owner, 12k, FSH, a/c, ABS, CD, r/c/locking, immob, e/wins, leather, alloys. In black **£7495**
03 53 **JAGUAR S-TYPE 3.0 V6 SE AUTO,** FSH, a/c, PAS, cruise, e/s/roof, rain sensor, immob, leather, alloys. In met blue **£6995**
03 53 **SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 WRX 4DR,** 1 owner, 54k, FDSH, a/c, immob, e/w, alloys. In black **£7495**
04 04 **BMW 320D 2.0 ES 6SP 4DR,** FSH, a/c, PAS, CBC, DSC, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, alloys. In met grey **£6995**
05 05 **JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 D CLASSIC 4DR,** 1 owner, FSH, a/c, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, wood finishes, alloys. In met green **£6495**
03 03 **TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 VVTI 2DR COUPE 6sp,** FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/s/roof, e/windows, leather, alloys. In met blue **£6495**
02 02 **AUDI A6 2.5 TDI SE CVT AUTO,** FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, immob, CD, e/seat, alloys. In met green **£5995**
02 02 **VOLVO C70 2.0 GT CONVERTIBLE AUTO**, FSH, a/c, PAS, cruise, immob, e/htd seats, e/hood, leather, alloys. In Turquoise **£5995**
03 52 **LEXUS IS 200 SE 6sp 4DR,** SH, a/c, r/c/locking, immob, htd/seats, e/s/r, CD, e/windows, leather, alloys. In met blue **£5995**
03 53 **PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0 SE 2DR CABRIOLET,** FSH, a/c, immob, e/w, e/rigid roof, leather, alloys. In met silver **£5695**
03 53 **PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0 2DR,** 39k, FSH, a/c, alarm, CD, e/rigid roof, leather, alloys. In met blue **£5695**
03 53 **JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.5 V6 4dr,** 1 owner, 51k, FSH, a/c, PAS, cruise, CD, immob, leather, alloys. In met grey **£5695**
00 X **BMW 325 CI SE 2DR COUPE,** SH, a/c, r/c/locking, CD, park sensors, leather, alloys. In met silver **£5495**
04 54 **VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTI CLUB**, 6sp, 34k, FSH, a/c, r/c/locking, immob, e/windows, alloys. In met blue **£5295**
03 53 **VOLVO S60 2.0 T SE AUTO,** FSH, a/c, cruise, r/c/l, SIPS, htd seats, e/seats, leather, alloys. In blue **£4995**
04 04 **ROVER 75 2.5 SE CONNOISSEUR**, 1 owner, 51k, FSH, a/c, cruise, immob, sat nav & tv, e/htd seats, leather, alloys. In met gold **£5495**
00 W **JAGUAR S-TYPE 3.0 V6 SE AUTO**, FSH, climate, e/s/r, e/seats, immob, CD, leather, alloys. In red **£3995**
02 52 **PEUGEOT 406 2.2 HDI GLX 4DR,** FSH, a/c, PAS, immob, e/seat, e/windows, ABS, alloys. In met blue **£3295**
03 53 **RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE (115bhp) 4dr,** FSH, a/c, PAS, immob, CD, e/mirrors, e/w, alloys. In pearl silver **£3295**

HATCHBACKS

06 06 **FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI LX 5DR,** 1 owner, FSH, 36k, a/c, immob, CD, e/windows, alloys. In met blue **£7295**
06 06 **FORD FOCUS 1.6 CLIMATE ZETEC,** 39k, FSH, a/c, ABS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, e/windows. alloys. In met silver **£5995**
04 04 **RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0T INITALE 5DR,** 58k, FDSH, a/c, r/c/locking, sat nav, e/s/r, htd/seats, leather, alloys. In met grey **£4495**
04 04 **VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 LS 5DR,** 2 owners, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, cruise, alarm, CD, e/windows. In met silver **£3995**
04 04 **SMART 0.7 CITY PULSE SEMI-AUTO 2DR,** 49k, FSH, ABS, PAS, CD, e/s/roof, alloys. In black **£4295**
02 52 **PEUGEOT 206 2.0 GTI 3DR**, 56k, FSH, a/c, PAS, ABS, e/w, CD, 1/2 leather, alloys. In met silver **£3995**
02 02 **PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LX 3DR**, 2 owners, 20k, FSH, a/c, immob, e/windows. In met green **£3295**
00 X **MERCEDES A140 1.4 ELEGANCE 5DR,** FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, immob, CD, e/windows, alloys. In met silver **£2995**
01 51 **RENAULT LAGUNA 1.9 DCI DYNAMIQUE 6SP AUTO,** 1 owner, FSH, a/c, PAS, immob, CD, e/s/roof, 1/2 leather, alloys. In met silver **£3295**
00 X **VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4I COUPE 3DR**, 48k, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, CD, r/c/locking, e/windows, alloys. In black **£3295**
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03 03 **FORD MONDEO 1.8 ZETEC 4DR,** 2 owners, SH, a/c, PAS, CD, e/windows, alloys. In met silver **£2695**

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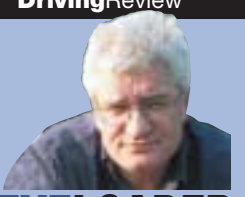
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R-word transforms style icon into a thrifty option

DrivingReview



by **STEVE LOADER**

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

MiniCooperD

AS soon as the 'R-word' was uttered this year, 'D' replaced 'S' as the top consonant at Mini dealerships.

For the practical virtues of the Mini Cooper D, or diesel, are far better suited to the onset of recession than the scorching power of the Cooper S performance flagship.

The point was confirmed by Juliet Foreman, sales manager of Broad Oak Mini of Ashford and Canterbury.

She said: "Over the past few months, we have seen Cooper D sales grow to 50 per cent of total Mini hatchback sales while most Clubman (estate) sales are diesel.

"And the first thing customers talk about now is running costs rather than the huge combination of colours and accessories we can supply – they are still important, of course, but keeping costs down is the priority for our customers now."

It helps that the Mini's established strength as a style icon has always been ably backed up by cost-cutting benefits: most models qualify for a maximum road tax of no more than £145 a year, depreciation is glacial – the Cooper D is officially the UK's slowest on that front – and BMW/Mini's unparalleled five-year/50,000-mile TLC servicing package.

The new Mark II range also gained BMW's EfficientDynamics (ED) package, created to fight global warming but now in the frontline for drivers fighting the recession.

ED brings a smooth stop-start system that kills the engine at the lights or in slow moving traffic and then quickly re-starts it when the clutch is depressed and a gear selected.

Any potential drain on the battery is avoided because the car's electrics are kept fully supplied by energy recovered from braking, which allows the alternator to stay offline rather than sapping engine power.

No wonder then that the greenest Mini model – the Cooper D we borrowed from Broad Oak – is capable of averaging more than 70mpg and its low emissions (104gm/km of CO_2) incur road tax of just £35 a year.



In fact, don't rule out BMW tweaking the car's 110bhp 1.6-litre turbodiesel unit to take it below the Government's 100gm/km benchmark and making it completely exempt from tax.

The big question is though: does opting for the 'Recession Special' diesel take all the fun out of what has been the number one style icon during the boom years before the goo hit the fan? Definitely not.

The diesel sounds a bit gruff when cold, but soon warms up and delivers lots of pulling power – 0-62mph in under 10 seconds is respectable – to make the Mini D just as much fun as its petrol counterparts.

Handling matches the high standards that have enabled both generations of BMW Mini to deliver driving style to match their looks.

The interior is, of course, untouched by the choice of engine: big trademark centre-mounted speedo – there is a digital repeater dead ahead of the driver on the rev counter – flick switches above and below and oodles of classy retro chic.

I've said it before that I wanted to hate the reborn Mini for its upmarket take on the styling of the everyman 1960s original and also loathed the 'Mini adventure' marketing, but I have been won over bit by bit with every drive of every model.

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Dealer deposit contribution**	£3,387
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4.9% APR TYPICAL



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Models shown are the Dodge Journey 2.0 SXT MY08 with an on the road cost of £21,195, excluding optional metallic paint at a cost of £400, the Dodge Caliber 2.0 CVT SXT MY07 with an on the road cost of £15,905, including optional metallic paint at a cost of £400, and the Dodge Avenger 2.0 SE MY08, with an on the road cost of £15,005, excluding optional metallic paint at a cost of £400. Price includes road fund licence (£145-£400) and first registration fee (£55). †Based on a Dodge Finance agility agreement. †Payable if you exercise the option to purchase the car. **The stated dealer contribution is only available with this finance offer. Finance subject to status and based on 10,000 mpa, excess mileage charges may apply. Vehicles must be registered between 1st October and 31st December 2008. Finance provided by Dodge Finance, which is a trading name of Mercedes-Benz Financial Services MK7 8ND. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Dodge is a registered trademark of Chrysler LLC. Offer applies to retail customers only and is subject to availability. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to press (10/08).

DrivingStats

- Mini Cooper D hatchback £14,420
- Range: £11,925-20,995
- Garage stats: 3.71 by 1.68m three-door hatchback
- Powertrain: 1,560cc/110bhp four-cylinder turbodiesel driving front wheels through a six-speed gearbox.
- Performance: top speed 121mph and 0-62mph in 9.9 seconds.
- How green?: category-B £35/year road tax and 104gm/km CO2 emissions.
- Official fuel figures: combined 72.4mpg.
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): *****
- Fuel tank: 40 litres/8.8 gallons
- Insurance group: 8E
- Warranty: three years/60,000 miles
- Website: www.mini.co.uk
- Rivals: Alfa Romeo MiTo, Citroën C2, Fiat 500, Ford Fiesta, Honda Jazz, Mazda2, Mercedes-Benz A-Class, Mitsubishi Colt, Nissan Micra, Peugeot 207, Renault Clio, Seat Ibiza, Skoda Fabia, Suzuki Swift, Toyota Yaris, Vauxhall Corsa and VW Polo.

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now and the Mini Cooper D is just the motor to cheer you up in depressing times – it's still fun, but it is cheap to run.

You will pay a £1,000 premium over an equivalent petrol Cooper though, so ask yourself whether the cheaper option could still keep you smiling – it should average well over 50mpg thanks to EfficientDynamics, will be cheaper to fuel and should still hold its value.







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146 TI, 5 door, p 1996, a car that will one day become a collectors item. thic car is a 2 owner from new with full service history mainly main dealer. it has the 2.0l engine which produces 150bhp, along with a 5 speed manual gearbox.£1495, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

SPIDER, 3.2 V6, gj57ffy, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric windows, leather interior, metallic paint, passenger airbag, trip computer, blue, 9000 miles, £20995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, SE 5dr, gk02 oec, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, electric front windows, electric mirrors, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, traction control, alloy wheels, blue, 58000 miles, £4995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

A4, TDi S Line, gj55uuc, remote central locking, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, immobiliser, 16'' alloys, grey, 61000 miles, £9999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

A4, Sport, ao04cab, remote central locking, remote alarm, full leather, centre armrest, electric seats, sports seats, xenon headlamps, rear spoiler, abs, air bag, traction control, power steering, cruise control, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, alloy wheels, rare and unusual car 'phone for further details', yellow, 48795 miles, £16995, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

A6, SE 4dr 2.4 Man, gj51nzf, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, abs, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, electric mirrors, 15'' alloys, green, 130000 miles, £3499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, cts 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005, light platinum with black leather, 22379 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft protection cd player central locking clock driver airbag poly silver, 25 miles, £8145, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

CAPTIVA, LTX 2.0, gk08orw, finished in denim blue with black interior, blue, 4000 miles, £22995, Caffyns Chevrolet T Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, SX 5dr, cv07lke, central locking, immobiliser, power steering, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, abs, cd player, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, aluminium silver, 3000 miles, £6995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

KALOS, SX 5dr, du06wcf, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, rear headrests, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, multiple airbags, abs, power steering, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, trip computer, radio, anti-theft system, remote alarm, twin air bags, child locks, adjustable steering column, stereo, alloy wheels, black, 8000 miles, £6495, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

KALOS, SX 5dr, 4739314, power steering, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, abs, multiple airbags, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, 14'' alloys, blue, 10000 miles, £5995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7v8 auto estate, 2007, brilliant crystal met with dark and light slate gr, 10577 miles, £18950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

NEON, 2.0 LXI, 1995 (n), 95 (n) chrysler neon 2.0 lxi automatic, 5 door saloon, metallic green coachwork with contrasting grey velour trim, low mileage, service history, new mot, ew x 4, em, pas, air bags, original hi-fi, only 1 owner from new. a snip at now £995 many more quality pre-owned cars for sale on: www.rivieracarsales.co.uk, metallic green, low mileage miles, £only £995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

CITROEN

CITROEN BERLINGO 800, 04 2005, 1.9d lx sold with rac warranty side door white pas 43.000 miles fsh lined, £3495, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CITROEN BERLINGO 800, 02 2005, 1.9 d lx sold with rac warranty side door white elec window white 49.000 miles fsh bulkhead lined, £3350, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, LX 800 2.0HDI Refrigerated Chiller, 2972180, grp lined. gah equipment. electric standby available if required (optional extra). lez compliant. white, 34000 miles, £6295, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

FIAT

FIAT SCUDO, 09 2006, 2.0 jtd dynamic cd elec tric windows ply lined 23.000 miles fsh manufactuers warranty, £5995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FIAT SCUDO EL, 05 2000, 2.0 jtd 3 seats twin doors white 119.000 no vat, 0 miles, £2400, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

BRAVO 100 SX, 2001 "y", a medium sized car with a 1.6 engine. pas c/lock s/hist very reasonly priced. a 3 month warranty is offerd on the screen price and we will take your old car in part exchange. a new mot test will be included. blue, 75, 000 miles, £1495, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

CINQUECENTO, m/1994, manual locking manual windows, red, 74, 000 miles, £was £695 now £595, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

COUPE, 2.0 16v, 1995, red, 72451 miles, £1995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUNTO, JTD Dynamic, gd53fhm, drivers airbag, electric windows, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, climate control, metallic paint, black, 30000 miles, £4995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

PUNTO, CHILL, gl54ogn, anti-lock brakes, central locking, drivers airbag, electric windows, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, split/folding rear seats, trip computer, blue, 21500 miles, £4495, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

FORD

FORD CONNCET T220, 12 2004, 1.8 tddi 75 ps swb white ply lined 80.000 miles fsh sold with rac warranty, £3550, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD CONNECT T200, 05 2004, 1.8 tdci 90 ps white 83.000 miles ply lined sold with rac warranty, £3550, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD TRANSIT, 07 2005, 350 2.4 td 90 ps sold with rac warranty lwb hi top white 29.000 miles, £6495, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style Climate, 2007, moondust silver, 0 miles, £7995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Flame, 2005, moondust silver, 33939 miles, £5995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 TDCi Style Climate, 2007, ocean blue, 0 miles, £8995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Style [70] 3dr [Climate] (2006 -), 25/07/2008, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, silver, 2500 miles, £5500, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, Ka Studio (2006) 3-Dr hatchback 1.3i Stage IV (-, 24/06/2007, abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser, silver, 14702 miles, £4893, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

KA, Ka Studio (2006) 3-Dr hatchback 1.3i Stage IV (-, 06/06/2007, abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser, black, 20283 miles, £4698, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Studio [70] 3dr (2006 -), 29/07/2008, abs power steering immobiliser, black, 1681 miles, £5000, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, LX 1798cc 5 door, 2001, cd player abs brakes air conditioning central locking alarm driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering immobiliser electric windows, gloss whight, 100000 miles, £2295, Northdown Road Motor Company, Margate, 01843 290890 (TRADE)

MUSTANG, 3.8 v6 coupe, 1995, silver, 23579 miles, £5495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUMA, 16v 3dr, 6238079, remote central locking, alarm, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, air conditioning, cd player, radio, abs, power steering, traction control, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, silver, 67500 miles, £3495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

RANGER, Thunder TDCi (LEZ COMP), wl07ahd-, remote central locking, full leather, centre armrest, traction control, abs, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, multi-disc cd player, cd player, tonneau cover, adjustable steering column, parking sensor, power steering, climate control, electric windows, 17'' alloys, 4x4, tel. 01795 430295, black, 11000 miles, £9500, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 180000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENS, 2.0 CRDI SR [7 Seat] Diesel, 2008, insurance group 10 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking roof rails side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment, grey, 14 miles, £11995, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

PICANTO, 1.1 LS, 2007, insurance group 3 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows passenger airbag power steering radio/cd steering wheel rake adjustment, liquid silver, 6963 miles, £5695, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

RIO, Chill Diesel, 2008, delivery miles only air conditioning front electric windows abs power steering radio/cd delivery mileage graphite cloth interior, tropical red, £8995, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 90 TD5 County Station Wagon 41 000 miles, y207gkr, air conditioning, abs, traction control, remote alarm, power steering, rear wash/wipe, side steps, sunroof, cd player, alloy wheels, 4x4, high specification vehicle. road tax on this vehicle is £210 per year. metallic blue, 41000 miles, £11995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 110 TD5 County Station Wagon 29 000 miles, y985hcd, remote alarm, sunroof, radio cassette, power steering, tow pack, 4x4, 10 seater. one owner and only 29, 000 miles. road tax is £210 per year. price is £12, 995 + £1, 949.25 vat@15% = £14, 944.25 total, red, £12995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 110 Hard-Top TD5, ld53ypu, centre armrest, ply-lined, power steering, 4x4, tel. 01795 430295, green, 60000 miles, £6000, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

DISCOVERY, TDi LEFT HAND DRIVE, 10952054, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, twin air bags, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, side steps, air conditioning, electric mirrors, electric windows, alloy wheels, 4x4, lhd. road tax is £185 per year. metallic blue, 125000 miles, £4995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

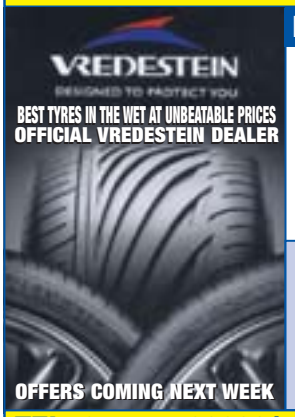
MAZDA

323, GT 5dr, 774461, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, 15'' alloys, aluminium silver, 87000 miles, £1999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

323, GXi D 5dr, ow52hsl, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, green, 94000 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

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5, TS2 D 2.0 110PS 5dr MPV, jan 2006 gl55hyf, two previous keepers, power steering remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, 6 speed gearbox, full service history, radio/cd player, cd autochanger, twin/side/curtain airbags, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, car alarm, electricdoor mirrors, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, sports seats, seven seats, alloy wheels. carbon grey metallic, 15, 000 miles, £12, 995, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

6S, 2005, blue metallic, 19299 miles, £6495, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

BONGO, mazda bongo, miles, £, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

MAZDA2, Capella 5dr, 6481079, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, electric mirrors, electric windows, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, power steering, air conditioning, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, alloy wheels, grey, 14900 miles, £4995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MX-5, l 1.8 Man, 678461, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, locking wheel nuts, centre armrest, twin air bags, cd player, stereo, 14'' alloys, racing green, 68000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MX-5, lcon, ef05yom, remote central locking, full leather, heated seats, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, cd player, radio, 15'' alloys, bronze, 100000 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

A CLASS, A150 Classic SE Lwb 5dr, ck56nsz, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, folding rear seats, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, abs, multiple airbags, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, blue, 2000 miles, £10995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

A CLASS, A150 Classic SE Lwb 5dr, yc05kld, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, abs, multiple airbags, power steering, electric sliding doors, air conditioning, cd player, 15'' alloys, reef blue, 19000 miles, £8995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

A-CLASS, 1.5 A150 Classic SE Hatchback 3d 1498cc, 07, air conditioning, cd, 1 owner, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, more a150 hatchback in stock, polar silver with black cloth, under 9, 500 miles, £8495, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

A-CLASS, 1.5 A150 Elegance SE Hatchback 3d 1498cc, 05, climate, alloys, wood trim, alarm & immobiliser, cd, 1 owner, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, more a150 in stock, polar silver with grey cloth, under 20, 500 miles, £8995, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

A-CLASS, 1.5 A150 Classic Hatchback 3d 1498cc, 57, climate, alarm & immobiliser, cd, 1 owner, please view our website to see our full stock, more a150 in stock, atoll blue with black cloth, under 12, 500 miles, £10495, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

A-CLASS, 1.7 A170 Elegance SE Hatchback 5d 1699cc, 06, climate, alloys, cd, rain sensor, isofix, please view our website to view our full stock, more a170 in stock, polar silver with grey cloth, under 15, 500 miles, £10995, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

B-CLASS, 1.5 B150 SE Hatchback 5d 1498cc, 06, 17'' 7-spoke alloys, sport pack, climate, cd, 1 owner, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, more b150 in stock, cosmos black with black half leather, under 18, 000 miles, £12995, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

B-CLASS, 1.5 B150 SE Hatchback 5d 1498cc, 06, alloys, climate, alarm & immobiliser, isofix, rain sensor, cd, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, more b150 in stock, horizon blue with black cloth, under 17, 000 miles, £12995, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

C CLASS, C180k Avantgarde SE, 4763314, alloy wheels, cubanite silver, 14000 miles, £17995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

C CLASS, C180k Classic SE, 4764314, alloy wheels, jasper blue, 18000 miles, £13995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MG

MGF, 10037578, alarm, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, half leather, head restraints, lumbar support, sports seats, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, radio cassette, alloy wheels, silver green, 26612 miles, £4495, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

TF, 135 Sports 2.0 Man, en02ybp, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, cd player, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, remote alarm, centre armrest, adjustable steering column, trip computer, electric mirrors, stereo, 15'' alloys, aluminium silver, 39000 miles, £4699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

TF, Sprint RT Sport Sports, gj53ewa, remote central locking, alcantara leather, half leather, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, cd player, stereo, 15'' alloys, aluminium silver, 5800 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

ZR, TROPHY 1, gn55dko, finished in silver with interior, silver, 41000 miles, £4985, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 2005, abs body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front head restraints height adjustable drivers seat isofix child seat anchor points pas passenger airbag radio/cd multichanger rear headrests rear wiper remote central locking service indicator side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment, metallic silver, 35536 miles, £9995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.3 Elegance Automatic, 2005, abs air conditioning alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights half airbags steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer, steel grey, 950 miles, £7750, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.1 CZ1, 2006, abs body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer, lunar silver, 3500 miles, £5995, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

L200, 2.5 TD, 2005, trim: leather engine size: 2500 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, silver, 40000 miles, £12331, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

L200, 4life Double Cab (LEZ COMP), 647182, remote central locking, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, abs, air bag, cloth upholstery, colour coded body, cd player, tow pack, side steps, 3-person rear seat, adjustable steering column, 16'' alloys, 4x4, load liner.tel. 01795 430295, black, 13000 miles, £9000, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

NISSAN

ALMERA, 1.8 SE 5dr Auto (2002 - 2005), 27/09/2005, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 46065 miles, £5000, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ALMERA, S 5dr Auto, ef04 gfv, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric front windows, height adjustable seat, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, cd player, radio, abs, twin air bags, power steering, blue/silver, 46000 miles, £3495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CABSTAR, S34.11 Drop-side (LEZCOMP), fd07cnn, adjustable steering column, power steering, cloth upholstery, abs, air bag, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, metallic paintwork, dual passenger seat, aluminium silver, 14000 miles, £10495, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

KUBISTAR, SE dCi 70, 870182, side load door, ply-lined, cd player, abs, air bag, electric mirrors, electric windows, power steering, remote central locking, roof rails, white, 25000 miles, £4195, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

MICRA, S 5dr, ek55joh, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, multiple airbags, abs, power steering, electric front windows, cd player, aluminium silver, 15000 miles, £5995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

MICRA, S 5dr, ex06hwc, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, retractable headrests, rear armrest, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, air bag, abs, power steering, electric front windows, aluminium silver, 10000 miles, £6495, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

NOTE, SE, gp07zfn, folding rear seats, rear headrests, lumbar support, height adjustable seat, cloth upholstery, immobiliser, remote central locking, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, 15'' alloys, aluminium silver, 1400 miles, £8995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

PRIMASTAR, SE DCI 100 6spd, hy06svn, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, bulkhead, side load door, barn doors, parking sensor, power steering, abs, air bag, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, white, 45000 miles, £6495, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

PEUGEOT EXPERT 900, 01 2006, 2.0 hdi sold with rac warranty 3 seats no vat twin doors white 40.000 miles fsh mpg 36, £5850, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT PARTNER 600 l, 06 2005, 1.9 d white side door 53.000 fsh sold with rac warranty, 0 miles, £3150, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT PARTNER 600L, 09 2005, 1.9 diesel sold with rac warranty side door met silver ply lined 40.000 miles fsh, £3795, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT PARTNER 600L, 03 2005, 1.9d white side door 65.000 miles fsh sold with rac warranty, £2995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

106, INDEP 1., gf02vkb, finished in orange with interior, orange, 27000 miles, £3495, Caffyns Chevrolet T Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

106, Xn Zest 2 3dr, 796461, cloth upholstery, head restraints, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, folding rear seats, sunroof, cd player, stereo, red metallic, 77700 miles, £1999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

106, independance, 2000, green with black, 43968 miles, £2195, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

106, independence, 2001, met green, 28000 miles, £2495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

106, 1.1 XL Hatchback 3Dr 1124cc, p/1997, manual windows central locking radio/cassette manual mirrors, red, 62, 000 miles, £1795, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

107, 1.0 Urban 5dr, 02/03/2007, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, yellow, 19434 miles, £7000, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

107, Urban 2-Tronic 3dr, gl57oyp, central locking, immobiliser, electric front windows, cd player, yellow, 10000 miles, £6495, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

107, Urban Move, gl08ccv, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, trip computer, blue, 20 miles, £7495, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

107, Urban, gl08cdf, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, trip computer, black, 20 miles, £6995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

206, Quiksilver SW, wv05hkf, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, half leather, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, folding rear seats, rear headrests, roof rails, rear wash/wipe, air conditioning, cd player, alloy wheels, aluminium silver, 15000 miles, £7495, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911, 3.6 Carrera 2 Tiptronic S Coupe 2d 3596cc auto (2002), 07, 19'' turbo alloys, sat nav, phone module, rear parktronic, sports chrono pack, sports seats, sports suspension, sports exhaust, vts tracking system, rear wiper, premium carpet mats, climate, bose, cd, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, basalt black with black leather, only 3, 000 miles, £65000, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

911 Carrera 4, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 46000 miles, £29950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

911 Turbo, 3.6 manual, 2003, black metallic with black leather, 17800 miles, £49950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

Boxster, 24v, 848182, anti-theft system, immobiliser, full leather, xenon headlamps, metallic paintwork, abs, brake assist, adjustable steering column, colour satnav, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, satellite navigation, traction control, stability control, powered folding mirrors, power hood, electric mirrors, climate control, remote central locking, electric seats, sports seats, electric windows, cd player, multi-disc cd player, 18'' alloys, aluminium silver, 22000 miles, £20000, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

PROTON

Persona, 1.5 GLSi Saloon 4d 1468cc auto, s 1999, electric windows, power assisted steering, drivers airbag, sunroof, remote mirrors, radio cassette. green, miles, £1995, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, Privilege, feb 06, 5 doors, automatic, hatchback, petrol, 13, 075 miles, metallic grey, 2 owners. 3x3 point rear seat belts, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, cloth seat trim, climate control, cruise control, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, folding rear seats, front electric windows, front head restraints, full size spare wheel, heated door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat, immobiliser, isofix child seat anchor points, lumbar support, pas, passenger airbag, radio/cd, rear electric windows, rear headrests, rear wiper, remote central locking, service indicator, side airbags, steering wheel rake adjustment, computer.full service renault history(last service 27/1008), 2 months tax, insurance group:6, grey, £7250, KENT, 01843 585186 (PRIVATE))

Clio, DYNAMIQUE 1.2 3DR, 2004, trim: cloth engine size: 1200 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, mercury, 26000 miles, £5795, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SMART

FORTWO, Pink Edition Cabriolet auto, lc06twa, remote alarm, remote central locking, abs, multiple airbags, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, electric mirrors, power hood, air conditioning, cd player, 15'' alloys, electric convertible roof, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fsA regulated, pink, 15000 miles, £7995, DW Leisure Mercedes Benz Specialist, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

FORTWO COUPE, 2005, pulse 2dr auto, silver, 11726 miles, £4995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

SUBARU

IMPREZA, wrx turbo, 2004, red, 38000 miles, £10995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 54/2005, pas central locking electric windows, bright red, 15, 000 miles, £3895, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5d 1061cc, 04/2004, pas electric windows radio/cd player central locking, blue metallic, 19, 000 miles, £4395, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

VAUXHALL combo 1700, 11 2005, 1.3 cdti side door white bulkhead 59.000 miles fsh sold with rac warranty, £3495, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

AGILA, DESIGN 1, gf08mtz, finished in atlanta blue with black interior, blue, 0 miles, £7689, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

AGILA, 1199cc 5 door Enjoy, 2001, driver's airbag power steering history check immobiliser, green tea, 76350 miles, £2595, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

AGILA, Enjoy 1.3Twinport (47.1 mpg £120 RFL Ins grp 3), bg55yyt, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, power steering, abs, child locks, twin air bags, electric mirrors, radio cassette, metallic blue, 26000 miles, £3990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

ANTARA, L 2.0 AU, gf08mme, finished in nickel silver with black interior, silver, 0 miles, £16995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

ASTRA, BREEZE+, gf08mpx, finished in sapphire black with black interior, black, 0 miles, £9989, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

ASTRA, BREEZE+, gf08mly, finished in ultra blue with black interior, blue, 0 miles, £10189, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

ASTRA, BREEZE+, gf08mlz, finished in metro blue with black interior, blue, 0 miles, £10989, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

VOLKSWAGEN

GOLF, 2.8 vr6, 1998, black, 93000 miles, £2500, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

GOLF, SE TDi Auto 5dr, 4822314, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, air conditioning, green, 53000 miles, £4995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

GOLF, S 5dr, ly51mfx, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, multiple airbags, power steering, sunroof, electric front windows, aluminium silver, 55000 miles, £3995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

GOLF, S, y683ccg, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, electric windows, sunroof, air bag, cd player, 15'' alloys, aluminium silver, 75000 miles, £3499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

POLO, S 1.2 55PS 3dr, sept 2005 au55pwx, one previous keeper, power steering, central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, 5 speed gearbox, full service history, radio/cd player, twin & side airbags, abs brakes, summer blue, 7, 500 miles, £6, 595, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

POLO, 1.4 CL Hatchback 3Dr, t/1999, a/con pas electric windows electric mirrors radio/cd player, bright red, 63, 000 miles, £2395, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

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Carter's 10-point plan to counter recession

A WIDE-ranging 10-point plan aimed at pumping extra energy into Kent's beleaguered business community has been launched by county council leader Paul Carter.

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

As a new year looms with the prospect of a recession, Cllr Carter unveiled measures such as KCC paying businesses what they are owed more quickly, making it easier for firms to bid for contracts; plus a new business information and action centre.

At a business breakfast in Maidstone, held in conjunction with Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, he told delegates from about 100 firms and organisations: "I am determined we will support Kent businesses as far as is possible through this recession.

"As chairman of the county's Public Sector Board, I will be encouraging other public sector agencies to do likewise. I want to ensure there are as many Kent jobs created for Kent people as possible.

"KCC is one of the biggest employers in the county and spends 40 per cent of its budget on goods and services – more than £320 million every year – with small and medium-sized Kent businesses.

"For example, a Kent firm, R Durtnell and Sons, will build the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate, creating employment opportunities and a focal point for regeneration in Thanet. And the £600m Building Schools for the Future programme is already being delivered in large part by Kent architects and builders, alongside their commitment to 400 local apprenticeships.

"I want to do even more and make it easier for local firms to access contracts like these and take advantage of others in the region such as the construction of Olympics sites.

"We will also aim to pay our suppliers quicker and help businesses to access grant aid."

KCC has come under sustained criticism from some private sector firms for its commercial services activities.

Some companies claim that they have been unfairly undercut for KCC contracts by County Hall's own arms-length companies.

Cllr Carter's 10-point plan is:

- Speed up the payment of invoices from 30 days to 20. In some cases this is down to seven days already.
- Drive forward KCC's capital programme of £850m over the next two years to provide more employment opportunities for Kent firms.
- Establish what is called Kent Property Enterprise Fund 2, placing KCC's vacant unsold property assets into a fund to be worked up into joint venture developments with the private sector.
- Expand KCC's approved list of contractors.
- Streamline KCC's contracts to make it easier for small and medium-sized firms to apply for council contracts and open up and raise awareness of tendering opportunities in and outside Kent.
- Provide a Kent Business Support Centre on KCC's website and through a team of advisers to improve access to council procurement and support. This should be going live next month.
- Support and signpost businesses to grant aid available through regional, national and European channels.
- Lobby Government for a reduction and removal of unnecessary regulation and bureaucracy.
- Encourage and facilitate consortia of Kent businesses to compete for larger public sector contracts outside of Kent.
- Review Kent's marketing and promote the county's USPs – unique selling points.

Afterwards, Cllr Carter told KOS Media he would be meeting Thames Gateway minister Margaret Beckett next month to talk about housing issues and will be pushing for more flexibility in planning guidance.

"There has to be some relaxation on housebuilders. At the moment you'd have to be barking mad to build new homes when there are no mortgage funds available.

"And there's got to be a reality check on some of the requirements placed upon housebuilders. We need to be more flexible to encourage and stimulate the industry."

He also said that the county's economic regeneration strategy would be published next month.

Relationships hit hard by the downturn

MONEY worries are loosening the ties of marriage with more couples seeking divorce, according to Furley Page.

The law firm reports an increase in the number of inquiries to its family law team in the last few months.



Anne Blenkinsop (pictured right), partner in the family law team, said: "Despite speculation that couples are tending to stay together during the tough economic period, our experience proves otherwise.

"With the popularity of marriage at an all-time low, it's no surprise that money worries don't make it any easier for them to overcome difficulties in their relationship."

Ms Blenkinsop, 45, who is a trustee for East Kent Relate and a member of East Kent Collaborative Law – a group of family law solicitors who offer a 'collaborative' process to clients – said husbands looking for a way out of an unhappy marriage might take the opportunity during a recession.

This is when the value of their assets and their income capacity were more modest.

"Wives should resist the temptation to agree to a capital sum in lieu of ongoing maintenance," Ms Blenkinsop said.

"A capital sum based on a husband's earning capacity won't be increased in better financial times whereas maintenance, even if set at a fairly meagre level, can be."

Furley Page has offices in Canterbury, Chatham and Whitstable.

Second phase of park expansion under way

THE £100 million second phase of a successful Kent business park with the potential to create nearly 2,000 jobs has been launched.

New work at White Cliffs Business Park, on the outskirts of Dover, will see the development of 65 acres including office, warehouse and industrial space with the potential to create 1,800 jobs. Director Steve Turner, of Muse Developments said: "To grow, the region needs high quality, modern commercial space and this expansion will boost the local economy and support inward investment."

Muse says it is already in discussions with five potential occupiers. Giles Thomas of Strutt & Parker, acting as agents on behalf of Muse, said: "Occupiers may be considered for grant assistance, which is available from the local authority."

The first phase was developed on a plot-by-plot basis by different partners and Dover District Council was responsible for overall marketing. Occupiers include B&Q, Pfizer, Frans Maas and Kuehne and Nagel.

The park has been made possible by a partnership of the district council, English Partnerships, Kent County Council, Dover Harbour Board and Priority Sites.



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Acas lay-off calls on the rise

IT WILL come as no surprise that the number of businesses and employees seeking advice on redundancy, lay-offs and business transfers hit a high in November, ***writes business editor Tony Patey***.

That's according to new statistics from Acas, the employment relations service. This coincides with figures released last month, which predicted that job losses in the South East may rise to 6.3 per cent in 2010.

Almost a third of inquiries to the Acas helpline in November were on redundancy, lay-offs and business transfers – a rise of 12 per cent since May. The website also received a sharp rise in people viewing guidance on redundancy issues, with more than 15,000 visits a week in November compared with 4,000 in May – a jump of nearly 300 per cent.

Inquiries to the helpline have shown that employers are most likely to ask about their legal responsibilities, consultation periods and how to decide which employees to make redundant.

Common inquiries from employees include asking about their own notice period and redundancy pay levels.

Paul Beard, regional director for Acas South East, said: "Involving employees and seeking advice and opinions from those with a wide range of perspectives can and has saved businesses and jobs.

"Business managers are often surprised by the lengths employees will go to help their employers survive and protect their future employment during a crisis."

BRITAIN has been given a world exclusive with trials of a new e-commerce website for iconic scooter brand Vespa designed and developed by Ashford-based agency Visarc.

The firm has actually made dedicated websites for three of Italian-based Piaggio Group brands – Vespa, Piaggio and Gilera scooters.

They combine e-commerce with Vespa's dealer network to provide online shoppers with services buyers expect from local dealers but with the convenience of buying on the web. Francesco Gamberini, managing director of Visarc, said all Piaggio's online sales are channelled through its dealer network rather than delivered to the customer's door.

This is important because potential customers may remember television's Watchdog programme in November which featured shoppers who had bought scooters online from specific manufacturers, but when the vehicles were delivered they were in kit form.

Visarc is a fully integrated marketing agency with global accounts in automotive, software, healthcare and premium audio sectors.



Kentish festive fare

PRODUCED in Kent, the champion of food and drink producers across the county, is hoping more people than ever will take a trip to their local farm shops, independent retailers and farmers' markets when getting ready for Christmas.

Many families will be looking for ways to save money this year and it's also a time when local producers can compete with supermarkets in terms of seasonal staples.

Market research has shown that every £10 spent on locally produced food and drink is worth £25 to the Kent economy, compared to only £14 in a supermarket.

Contract renewed

SCOTLAND-based UPM Tilhill, the UK's largest timber harvesting company, has secured a five-year contract with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

It will enable the company to continue its care of woodlands at Marshley Harbour and Bassetts/Snipe Wood, near Pembury, and at High Wood, near Hawkenbury.

Over the next five years, UPM Tilhill's activity will be guided by the borough's woodland management plan with the focus on protecting ancient woodland, creation of broadleaf forest, improved public access, habitat improvement, heathland restoration, and rhododendron control.





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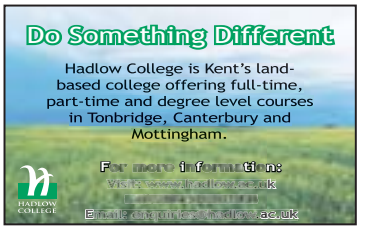
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Movers & Shakers

HSBC has appointed Melanie Luckhurst as the new manager in its Ramsgate branch.

She joined the bank in 1978 working in the Cheriton branch doing back office processing in a clerical position.

As well as working in Cheriton and Ramsgate, Melanie has worked in Folkestone and in Dover.

In 2001 she took on her first management role with the bank as assistant manager in Dover and became the branch manager there in 2005.

In her new position, Melanie has a staff of eight including a mortgage manager and a business specialist.



MELANIE LUCKHURST: New manager of HSBC's Ramsgate branch

AWARD-winning chartered accountants Creaseys LLP has recruited a new partner, Tim Page, to head the firm's private client practice.

With more than 20 years' experience in the profession, Mr Page will be leading a team of 17 associates at Creaseys.

He joins the Tunbridge Wells-based firm after a period running his own business.

Recent restructuring has seen the creation of three distinct practices within the firm: corporate and business, tax consulting and private clients.

The private client practice has also benefited from the recent appointment of two new client managers with extensive tax expertise: Ian Ratcliff and Paula Monk.



TIM PAGE: New Head of Creaseys LLP private client practice team

SIXT Rent a Car, which has offices in Ashford, Whitstable and Tunbridge Wells, has appointed Ian Lawrence as managing director.

He succeeds Roger Freeman, who remains managing director of sister company United Rental Group.

Mr Lawrence has 30 years' experience in the car rental industry and spent almost 14 years at United Rental Group before moving to Sixt in 2005 as operations director, responsible for the restructuring of its branch network.

In addition to his role as managing director, he will remain an executive director of United Rental Group.



IAN LAWRENCE: Newly appointed as managing director of Sixt Rent a Car

CRIPPS Harries Hall LLP, one of the South East's leading law firms, has boosted its corporate transactional team with the appointment of Julie Branch, who joins from the private equity team at Clifford Chance.

She trained there and qualified in its corporate department in 2004, where she gained experience in the private equity team, working principally on management buyouts and sales for private equity houses, where deal values ranged from £12 million to £900 million.

TWO solicitors at Stephens & Son in Chatham have qualified as full members of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), a leading professional network of more than 14,000 members in over 60 countries.

Caroline Brooks-Johnson and Julie Weekes, both specialising in wills, probate and trusts at the firm, are among the first people in Medway to have achieved full membership of STEP. It was the culmination of many hours of study over two years.

Stephens & Son was established in 1793 has provided an unbroken service to clients in north Kent and beyond.

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Manual Handling	½ day	22nd Jan	£70
NEBOSH General Certificate (NGC2)	6 Days	28th Jan	£675
CITB Site Safety for Shopfitters	3 Days	30th Jan	£400
NEBOSH General Certificate (NGC1)	5 Days	2nd Feb	£675
CITB SMSTS	5 Days	3rd Feb	£500

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By **LIZ RULE**
Pharon Independent Financial Advisers Ltd

Website is worth visit for peace of mind

IT IS difficult to believe that Christmas is upon us again.

There has been a lot of bad news about our economy lately and I am sure that some consumers are being careful about what they spend on presents, food, going out and all the other costs associated with Christmas that we sometimes do not factor in.

There will also, unfortunately, be many people struggling to cope with the additional costs of the festive season, particularly after a year where prices rose dramatically and the price of fuel at certain points became unmanageable.

If you are concerned about your finances, there is a website that may help.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) has a website called www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk, which is dedicated to offering basic but factual advice on money, credit and debt.

Decisions

In particular there is a debt test, developed by the FSA, the BBC and Experian.

The test aims to give you information to help identify your financial needs and make financial decisions.

It does not provide financial or other professional advice, but it can tell you who can help.

While the site does provide information on financial products – and even compares financial products – it does warn people not to purchase any products based on the information on the site alone, and I would reiterate that sentiment. It is only a guide.

If you can be reasonably prudent about the money you spend this Christmas and you get impartial advice on how best to structure your finances and regain control, then I am sure you will feel happier entering 2009 and more positive about the future.

Make it a New Year's resolution to visit the site and you may be able to relax and enjoy Christmas more.



Village's watering hole up for sale

ANYONE wanting to run a pub should take a look at The George, a Grade II-listed freehouse in Bethersden, near Ashford.

The freehold is for sale at £599,000 through the Maidstone office of Christie & Co.

Built in 1701, The George is a traditional village freehouse which hosts beer festivals during the summer, is renowned for its real ale and Kent cider and is listed in Camra's Good Beer Guide.

The George has a Kent peg-tile roof and half tile-hung elevations, open fireplaces, low ceilings, and exposed beams and brickwork.

The detached property includes a public bar, lounge, restaurant, three-bedroom accommodation, large beer garden, private garden and a car park.

Matthew Smith, of Christie & Co's Maidstone office, said: "We are marketing The George on behalf of Anthony and Elaine Le Beau, who bought the business in 2002 and now wish to focus on family commitments."

The George has a fine reputation for its beer festivals and would ideally suit another hands-on owner who might increase the food operation. Contact Christie & Co on 01622 656001, or email maidstone@christie.com, for full details.

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SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£599	SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£664	SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£583	SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£643
NORWICH UNION	£595	PRUDENTIAL	£647	CANADA LIFE	£575	PRUDENTIAL	£629
CANADA LIFE	£588	NORWICH UNION	£647	NORWICH UNION	£573	NORWICH UNION	£628
PRUDENTIAL	£578	CANADA LIFE	£645	PRUDENTIAL	£565	CANADA LIFE	£626

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MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

ABBEY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.54% **L:** 70% **U:** 02/03/2011 **OD:** £1,759

FIRST ACTIVE RBS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.20% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/01/2011 **OD:** £1,029

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.99% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/01/2012 **OD:** £1,325

ABBEY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.34% **L:** 75% **U:** 02/03/2014 **OD:** £809

OTHER

NATIONWIDE
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 4.19% **L:** 75% **U:** 2 YEARS **OD:** £1,015

MARSDEN
RT: DISCOUNTED VARIABLE **R%:** 4.79% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS **OD:** £1,515

MANSFIELD
RT: DISCOUNTED VARIABLE **R%:** 4.79% **L:** 75% **U:** 30/11/2010 **OD:** £824

NATIONAL COUNTIES
RT: STANDARD VARIABLE **R%:** 5.29% **L:** 75 % **U:** N/A **OD:** £550

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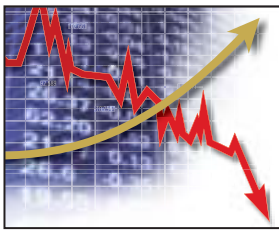
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Formation of a new league to be discussed at county level

THE Kent League will hold a meeting with clubs from across the county next month in an attempt to comprehensively gauge the level of interest for a new division.

The move was prompted after talks with the Kent County League last month failed to reach an agreement, all but ending hopes the new tier would be introduced in time for next season.

Instead, the Kent League is hoping that by getting all the clubs together to explain the pros and cons of the plan they will get a clear indication if there is sufficient enthusiasm to continue.

Invitations will be circulated to clubs in the Kent League and County League and for the first time teams in the top divisions of regional competitions across the county, such as the Rochester and District Football League, will also be consulted.

Denise Richmond, Kent League chairman, said: "I see it as a positive step because it will bring everything out into the open for the clubs.

"It's not about stealing clubs from leagues, it's about bettering non-league football in the county."

Funding

The intention, first seriously mooted last summer, is to create a division in 'step 6' of the football pyramid.

It would fit in between the step 5 Kent League Premier Division and the County League's top flight, which is at step 7.

Kent is one of the only counties not to have a division at step 6. It makes it difficult for clubs in the County League to make the jump into the Kent League, due to the minimum ground requirements for step 5 clubs.

A step 6 division would create a more straightforward pathway for ambitious clubs. The funding available to make the necessary ground improvements is also substantially greater than in step 7.

Despite believing the meeting will kick-start the process, Richmond admitted the delays mean it is doubtful to be introduced next season.

She said: "It didn't hurt to push for the earlier date, but I think now the 2010-11 season is more realistic."

Stimson to offer Robson contract with Cup bonus

Gills' £300,000 for Villa game is set to keep the status quo

By DAVID PRITCHARD

GILLINGHAM'S FA Cup windfall is unlikely to lead to a surge of activity in the transfer market as manager Mark Stimson first looks to keep his squad together.

The team's 2-1 victory at Stockport County on Tuesday night set up a lucrative third round tie with Premier League side Aston Villa at Priestfield next month.

With the match to be screened live on television, the club are set to generate around £300,000 from the one-off game.

The unexpected bonus comes right at the start of the January transfer window, but far from adding to his squad to help the promotion push, Stimson's priority is to keep the status quo.

Top of his list is keeping first-team coach Mark Robson. The former West Ham midfielder joined Gills this summer after 10 years in the Charlton coaching set-up.

Robson arrived on a temporary basis while looking for his first managerial post. He is still not on a contract at Priestfield, something Stimson wants to change as soon as possible.

He said: "Hopefully, I'll be offering him something on the same terms as my contract – this season plus two more.

"Mark's added even more enthusiasm and that's so important, he works in very similar ways to me. He has helped by bringing in different ideas. It's nice when you're a player to have a mixture of training sessions."

Picture: KEITH SLATER



PARTNERSHIP: Stimson (left) is keen to give first team coach Mark Robson (right) a contract

Next on Stimson's wish list is to re-sign Tottenham forward Andy Barcham, who scored both goals at Stockport. The 21-year-old's three-month stay will end on Boxing Day, but once the window opens on January 1 he will be able to return until the end of the season.

Important

Stimson said: "He's happy to be part of a first team which is important at this stage of his career. He's concerned he's out of contract in the summer so what he does in the next two or three months is very important.

"What we have stressed is if he comes here and scores goals he is in the shop window because he's playing league football."

If there is any money available after arranging deals with Robson and Barcham, Stimson will then look to strengthen his squad.

He would be helped if Peterborough decide to take up an option to sign Andrew Crofts, who is on loan with the League One club.

With the Wales international out of contract in the summer, Gills are unlikely to demand a fee, but his departure would leave room in the wage budget for a new signing.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

International festival gives teenager first taste of Olympic-style eventing

A RIDER will take one step closer to realising her Olympic dream next month when she competes for Great Britain in the Australian Youth Olympic Festival (AYOF).

Emily Cousins, 19, is part of a three-strong dressage team to take part in the event at the same venue in Sydney which hosted the Olympic Games eight years ago.

The neuroscience student from Harrietsham, near Maidstone, has a long-term goal of competing at the London Games in 2012.

Cousins (right) has competed internationally before, but with 25 countries taking part in 21 sports at the AYOF, it will be on a much larger scale than she is use to.

She said: "It will be completely different because there are so many sports in the festival. I think it will be an amazing experience and give everyone a feel of what the Olympics is like."

The AYOF is a multi-sport event for under-19s which was set up in 2007.

The goal is to prepare promising sportsmen and women for competing in the Olympics later in their career and promote the movement's ideals of friendship and fair play.

The 2009 event is the first time equestrian events have been included.

To avoid the costs and logistics of transporting horses to Australia, all riders will compete on borrowed horses drawn at random.

Cousins will have only a limited time to get adjusted to her mount, which will be a challenge.

She said: "Dressage is all about a partnership between the rider and the horse. It will be the first time I have competed on an unknown horse, but it's all part of the experience."

The four-day AYOF begins on January 14.



Picture: COLIN NICHOLAS

Dubai dream turns into a disaster for Danielle

DANIELLE Masters faces an uncertain future on the Ladies European Tour after retiring from the final event of the Dubai Masters.

The 25-year-old had to produce a good performance in the tournament to secure a finish in the top 80 on the Order of Merit to cement her place on the Tour for next season.

However, with the event being her first for five months, Masters (right) struggled in the opening round carding an eight-over-par score of 80, leaving her in 102nd position at the end of day one. The Chart Hills golfer began the second round, but decided to retire from the event.

Masters will have to go to Tour Qualifying School to secure her place on the 2009 European Tour, which begins on January 5 in La Manga, Spain.



Picture: TRISTAN JONES/LET

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Tak tells Joe it's the right time to go...

Only way is down for ring legend says Margate Rock

By GLENN PEARSON

KENT'S top boxer Mehrdud Takaloo has urged long-time friend Joe Calzaghe to quit the sport while he is ahead.

The undefeated Welsh superstar is considering retiring from boxing after he recorded his 46th straight win in the defeat of Roy Jones Jr last month.

Calzaghe claimed ahead of the fight at Madison Square Garden in New York, that it would be his last, but he is still to confirm his retirement from the sport.

Carl Froch claimed Calzaghe's old WBC super-middleweight title last weekend and has been trying to coax the Welshman into a fight, while Jones Jr, Bernard Hopkins and Michael Kessier have all expressed more than an interest in a rematch.

However, Takaloo, who walked Calzaghe into the ring for his fight with Jones Jr, has told his friend and soon-to-be promoter to give up boxing or risk seeing his 18-year unbeaten stretch come to an end.

He said: "When I spoke to Joe last week he told me that was it. He's earned about £17 million out of boxing and I told him that he shouldn't fight anymore.

"He's done everything in boxing, the only thing left for him to do is get beat and he agreed with me on that.

"I know Carl Froch wants to fight him, but Joe would beat him any day of the week. He is a true legend of boxing, what he has done is amazing. I just hope he retires, but you never know with us boxers, it's in our blood."

Challenge

That sentiment is perhaps epitomised most by Takaloo, who was ready to hang his gloves up after his defeat to Anthony Small in January.

After almost a year of contemplating what to do with his future, the 'Margate Rock' as he is known, is ready to step back in the ring having been persuaded by Calzaghe to launch one more challenge for the British title.

The 33-year-old is already back in training and eyeing up a rematch with both Small and Ryan Rhodes, but is expecting his comeback to be staged in America where the fight will be promoted by Calzaghe.

He said: "Next year will be my comeback and after fighting in America I hope to be back for a British title shot in the summer.

"I don't want to be messing around with Southern Area titles anymore. In the past I have bypassed the British title, but I want 2009 to be the year I go down in the history."



Picture: ADY KERRY

HANG TOUGH: Takaloo (left) walked good friend Calzaghe into the ring in New York



Picture: LAWRENCE LUSTIG/PDC

STEP UP: Shepherd was runner-up last year

Shepherd given a tough opening round at worlds

LAST year's PDC World Championship runner-up Kirk Shepherd has been handed a tough draw in the opening round of the tournament at London's Alexandra Palace.

Shepherd, from Ramsgate, almost produced a shock as he played his way into the final last year where he was eventually beaten by Canadian John Part.

The 22-year-old, nicknamed 'Young Gun', has been drawn to play Dutch left-hander Jan van der Rassel in the first round which is due to be played on Tuesday, December 23 at 2.45pm.

Shepherd has already had the better of the 44-year-old van der Rassell, having beaten him twice this year. A 6-4 victory at the UK Open in June was followed up nine days later with a narrow 3-2 win in the PDPA Players Championship in Bristol.

If Shepherd were to get through at Alexandra Palace, he will face either number 10 seed Colin Lloyd or Jelle Klassen in the second round on Sunday, December 28 at 7.10pm.

Shepherd, now ranked number 23 in the world, earned £50,000 for finishing runner-up last year after beating Barrie Bates, Mick McGowan, Peter Manley and Wayne Mardle.

Exciting times in the ladies' game

KENT'S women cricketers will play in Division One of the new-look County Championship and feature in the inaugural England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) women's Twenty20 Cup next season.

The ECB has announced it is expanding women's county cricket in 2009 with the inclusion of Ireland into the new-look women's County Championship, as well as the introduction of a Twenty20 Cup.

Kent, led by England skipper Charlotte Edwards, will play more matches in the 50-over County Championship in more competitive divisions than ever before, resulting in a more comprehensive tournament.



Picture: ADY KERRY

READY: England's Charlotte Edwards

The top 24 teams in the country, including some Minor Counties, will play 10 matches from May through to September, five at home and five away.

The ECB women's Twenty20 Cup will be inaugurated in 2009. The shortest form of the game has raised the profile of women's cricket considerably, particularly with the inclusion of the women's game in the ICC World Twenty20 in England in June.

Head of women's cricket Clare Connor said: "Further to a really positive consultation process, we feel we have a structure for 2009 that will provide a longer county season and a tougher playing environment for our cricketers. I am also hugely excited about the introduction of the ECB women's Twenty20 Cup.

"Our England players are desperate to play on finals day at Lord's on June 21 and the more competitive opportunities they are given to learn the art of Twenty20, the better our prospects on the international stage will be."

Oulton Park steals Brands' glory to host British superbikes finale

BRANDS Hatch is set to host two rounds of the 2009 British Superbike Championship, but will no longer host the final round.

The Kent circuit will kick the championship off with the opening round on the Easter weekend of April 10-13. Fans will hope there will not be a repeat of the snowy weather that forced the meeting on the Indy circuit last season to be abandoned.

The opening meeting has been extended to four days to allow for additional testing and extensive support races.

The big change to the calendar sees Cheshire circuit Oulton Park host the final round of the championship on October 11 instead of Brands Hatch.

However, Brands will host its second meeting of the year on the Grand Prix circuit on August 9.

Series director Stuart Higgs is looking forward to next season and believes another action-packed championship is in store for fans.

He said: "We believe we have the most competitive domestic superbike championship in the world with the calibre of riders and machines already entered and the new-look calendar adds spice, with variation and a range of circuits that fully test the capabilities of all competitors."



Picture: ADY KERRY

2009 BRITISH SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

Round 1 **Brands Hatch Indy April 10-13**	Round 7 **Mallory Park July 17-19**
Round 2 **Oulton Park May 2-4**	Round 8 **Brands Hatch Grand Prix August 7-9**
Round 3 **Donington Park May 23-25**	Round 9 **Cadwell Park August 29-31**
Round 4 **Thruxton May 29-31**	Round 10 **Croft September 25-27**
Round 5 **Snetterton June 19-21**	Round 11 **Silverstone September 25-27**
Round 6 **Knockhill July 3-5**	Round 12 **Oulton Park October 9-11**

KENT ON SUNDAY
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FOOTBALL
Gills' Stimson keen to put FA Cup windfall to good use **86**





BOXING
Tak urges friend Joe to hang up his gloves **87**

KHAN CLOSE TO ENGLAND SPOT

...and county colleague RJ not far off either says coach

By **GLENN PEARSON**

KENT coach Simon Willis has backed Amjad Khan to break into the Test team and he expects fellow paceman Robbie Joseph to join him in a future England bowling attack.

Danish-born Khan was called up to the Test squad for the series with India to replace the injured Ryan Sidebottom, after impressing while at an England training camp in Abu Dhabi.

The Kent fast bowler narrowly missed out on making his England debut in the first Test in Chennai after captain Kevin Pietersen opted to give a debut to spinner Graeme Swann instead.

If he were to play in the second Test in Mohali next week, it would cap a miraculous comeback from the 28-year-old, who spent 16 lonely months on the sidelines recovering from a cruciate ligament injury that threatened to end a promising career.

However, after making his long-awaited return to the Kent team midway through the season he played just a handful of games for the county before being called up to Pietersen's squad.

Willis admitted he was slightly shocked Khan made the squad so soon, but believes his hard work on the road to recovery justifies his inclusion.

"I think I probably was surprised he got called up," he said. "Obviously he has got picked after impressing in the England Performance Squad, but I thought there maybe some names ahead of him because of the lack of cricket he has played. The England management clearly have a lot of faith in him.

"Amjad is a very focused individual. He put in a lot of hard hours to get back from injury and I think England have noticed that. He obviously has that raw pace and has the ability to reverse swing the ball in dry conditions, which is a big advantage when touring somewhere like India."

Picture: GETTY IMAGES



FAST TRACK: Khan with Freddie Flintoff

Khan was champing at the bit to get involved during the 2008 season, but coaches Graham Ford and Willis took the decision to hold him back. The paceman played in a pre-season game where he picked up a minor injury that set him back and from then on the two Kent coaches worked with him to ensure he would be fully fit and had little chance of breaking down – a decision which was easier said than done.

Willis said: "It was definitely a good decision to hold him back a little, but with the type of character he is that wasn't easy. You can't fault him for wanting to put the hard work in and I would much prefer a player that wanted to do that. We did have to keep the reins on at times though.

"There is no doubt that for him to play cricket at one stage was something.

"The call-up will give him a massive boost because he has sat 12 months on crutches and now he is on the fringes of the Test side.

"If he doesn't make the second Test with India he will be hoping to make his debut on the next tour. I'm sure he will come back in the summer looking to take wickets for Kent and hoping to get a place in the side for the summer Tests."

Fellow county team-mate Robbie Joseph was also part of the squads training in Abu Dhabi and although he didn't make the full squad this time, Willis believes he is one for the future.

"RJ had a fantastic summer, but he is probably a lot more unknown to those in the England set-up than Amjad," he said.

"Robbie has just come out of the second team, but I am sure when they see a bit more of him he will also stand a good chance of making the England side with Amjad."

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Folb keen on Stones despite potential debts

By **TOM HOWARD**

LASHINGS Cricket Club owner David Folb admitted he would not be worried by the possibility of inheriting debts as he looks to buy Maidstone United.

The Ryman Premier League side confirmed Folb's interest in buying the club this week and he was due to meet chairman Paul Bowden-Brown on Wednesday.

However, the meeting was cancelled as Folb is yet to look at all the figures, but another meeting is hoped to take place in the near future.

Folb said: "I can confirm my interest in the club is genuine, but as Paul has pointed out, buying a football club is not like buying a car. This isn't something we're going to be able to put together in five minutes.

"There are not many football clubs that are not in debt at the moment. I am not sure what the losses are at Maidstone, but I wouldn't think it would be as bad as some clubs. I don't think it would perturb me. I am not new to this business as I used to be chairman at Chatham Town so I know about non-league football."

The Lashings owner revealed if he were to buy the club he has one main priority for the future.

"I am not interested in this as a way to make a profit or bring Manchester United down to play the team. I used to watch the Stones play as a kid and I want to see them back playing in Maidstone," he said.

Bowden-Brown is delighted the Maidstone millionaire has expressed an interest, but is aware the sale of the club will not be a quick procedure.

He said: "We do not want to raise expectations unduly. The sale of a football club can be a complicated, protracted business."



IN LIMBO: Maidstone United

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